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MARTLET

The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca
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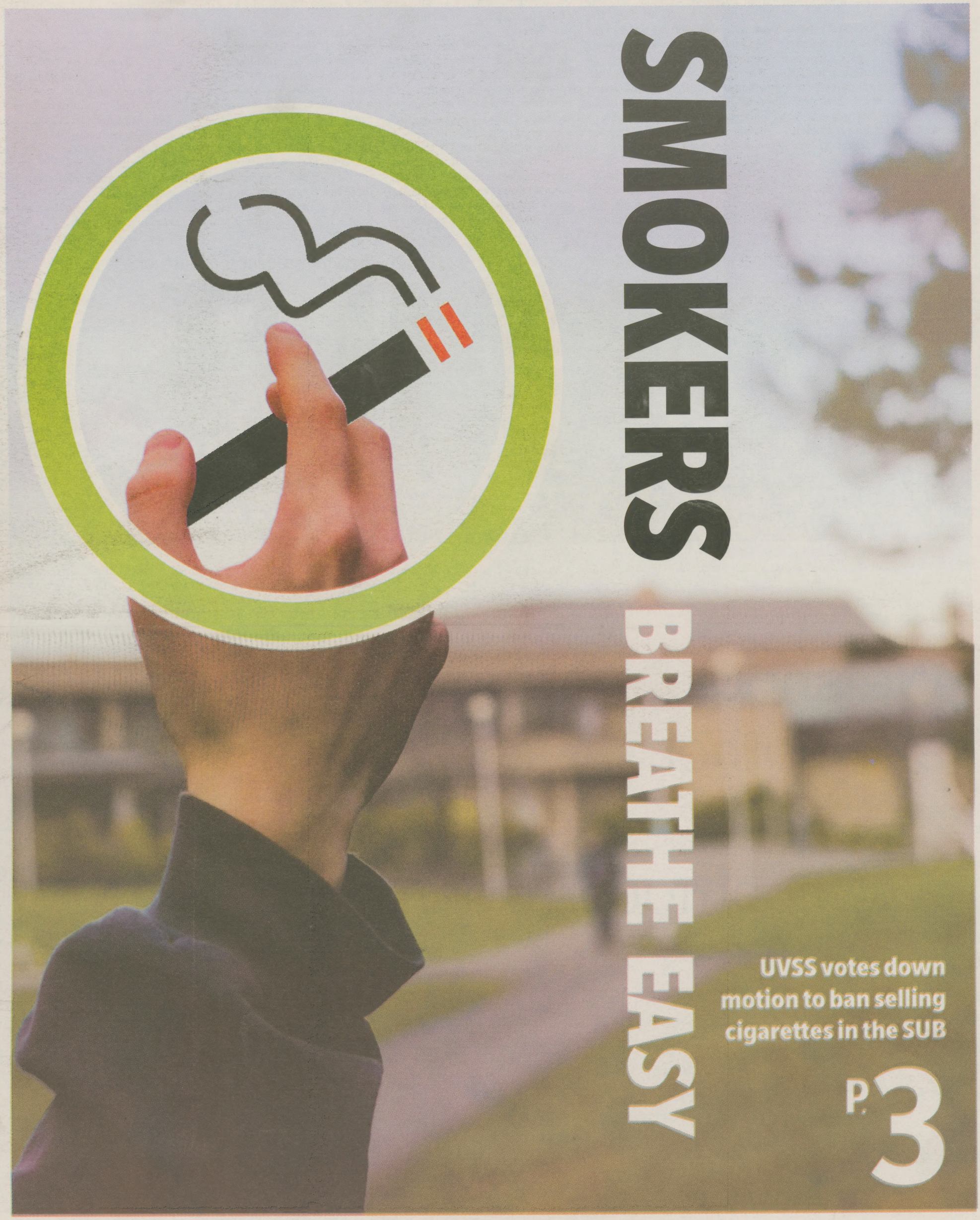

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The blind gain access to UVic policy

by Hilary Agro

UVic is a little more accessible after the Jan. 15 UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board meeting.

A motion was passed at the meeting to allocate $400 for the translation of the UVSS constitution, bylaws and policies into braille. Last August, a similar motion was put forward by Kyla Berry, constituency representative for Access UVic, a constituency group for students with disabilities. The motion, however, died on the table.

"When we first submitted it, we didn't have price quotes attached, and it got referred to finance," said Berry. "But nothing ever came out of finance—it just died. So this new motion was put together."

January's motion had a quote from Future Aid Inc., a company that provides braille services. The estimate was $300 for the translation and $50 per copy of the constitution.

On Jan. 15, the motion carried 11 to 2 after some debate considering other less expensive options to make the constitution accessible to the blind, and what would happen when the constitution's policies or bylaws need to be updated.

Though the constitution is already available to the blind through electronic screen readers, Berry said that a variety of options to choose from should be available.

Creating a braille copy of the constitution "signals an awareness of and invitation to blind students," said Berry.

The UVSS is now the first Student Society in Canada to make its constitution available in braille.

Berry believes that in order to encourage disabled students to feel welcome at UVic, pre-emptive steps need be taken.

Andrew Bateman, a UVSS director-at-large, said that he would feel more comfortable, however, if the request came from an individual who knew he or she would use the braille version. Berry did acknowledge that the current system is completely accessible to students with disabilities and that funding the Braille copies would be a "gesture."

There was also no official consensus as to what would happen in the case of amendments, but several ideas were put forward, including binding the book in such a way that certain pages could be replaced.

"More and more blind children are being educated in the public school system," said Berry. "While the social inclusion is positive, there has been a tendency to neglect teaching blind skills, like braille. It is just as difficult to transition from tactile reading to audio reading as it is for a sighted person to transition from visual reading to audio reading. How well could you study if you only had the textbook on tape?"

Access UVic is pleased with the result, though they feel that the university is far from being entirely disability-friendly.

"I'm really proud of this motion, and I'm proud that Access has the privilege of leading the UVSS in this area," said Berry. "We hope to see the University of Victoria become a real leader around disability rights."

The constitution is currently only available in English.

Stéphane Dion makes a short visit to Victoria

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Stéphane Dion made a quick stop in Victoria on Jan. 25 to defend his character against attacks from the Conservatives.

Starving student soup kitchen

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Penny Beames and Erika Syrotuck serve at the starving student soup kitchen to raise awareness for the Feb. 7 Day of Action.

We should really get to know each other.

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No, thank you for smoking

UVic Students' Society shoots down motion to ban cigarette sales

by Carley Fortune

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Rob Obara, Kaitlin Richardson and Jack Boomer, director of Clean Air Coalition of B.C.

Smokers can breathe easy after a motion to ban the sale of cigarettes in the Student Union Building (SUB) was voted down six to three at the Jan. 29 UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board meeting.

The board also turned down a motion that would give their support to a proposed campus-wide ban on smoking, except within designated smoking areas in parking lots.

However, in a secret-ballot vote, the UVSS elected director-at-large Janet Shivas to sit on the university's Smoking Task Force at the meeting.

"I'm a smoker, and I think I'd be able to give some insight," said Shivas in her 30-second speech to convince board members to vote for her.

"A smoker being on the committee is a serious conflict of interest," said Director-at-Large Erin Sikora, an ex-smoker who supported Tobacco Free Pro Health Club's original proposal, in an interview.

Rob Obara, president of the UVic Tobacco Free Pro Health Club, the group that put the original proposal to the UVSS, will also sit on the task force.

"I think the board in its discussion made it very clear that they do support some regulation in terms of where students can smoke," said UVSS Chairperson Penny Beames. "They also felt that having students on the Smoking Task Force would be the best way to figure out which regions would be best for people to smoke in."

According to Obara, 30 schools across North America have banned the sale of cigarettes on campus.

"It's unacceptable for the UVSS to be profiting from the cancer of students," Obara told the board members. "We can be a leader for B.C."

But not all of the members of the board felt that this was an issue they wanted to support.

"We're providing a service to members of our society," said Director of Academics Jeremy David Peters regarding selling cigarettes in SUBtext and in the cigarette vending machine at Felicita's Pub. Peters also said that smoking cigarettes is a legal activity and pointed out that the UVSS doesn't advertise that it sells cigarettes.

The UVSS makes about $19,000 in net revenue a year from the sale of cigarettes in SUBtext and about $2,250 from the vending machine in Felicita's.

Marne Jensen, the general manager of the UVSS, told board members that the cigarettes in the SUB bring in the campus construction workers who then also spend additional money on food.

Sikora told the board that while $19,000 is not an insignificant amount of money, they should still vote to ban selling cigarettes.

"Porn offends people and guns kill people so we don't sell them," she said. "Tobacco offends people and kills people."

"I'm disappointed in the UVSS's inability to step up to the place and promote health on behalf of students," said Obara in an interview after the decision. He thinks the motion failed to pass because it was too specific in its demands, but said there's another reason too.

"In my opinion, the UVSS is pushing this aside to another branch at UVic so that they don't have to deal with the controversy," he said.

"I don't think that's it," said UVSS Chairperson Penny Beames. "I think that the Students' Society just thought that a more collaborative approach between members of the Students' Society and members of faculty, administration and staff would be a better way to go about regulating smoking on campus."

Sikora said that board members "were looking for a reason to vote [the motion] down" and that they found that reason in the money made from tobacco sales.

Despite the defeat, Obara is still positive.

"Now that we understand the UVSS is more interested in profiting off tobacco smoke than they are about the students' health, in my opinion ... we know where we stand and we can take that and work with it," he said.

Kaitlin Richardson, vice-president of Tobacco Free, said the club will probably be back to the UVSS with another proposal in the future, but that they will also be pursuing other options.

MARTLET

Photo Contest!

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Enter the 3rd annual Martlet Cover Photo Contest and see your picture on the cover of the Martlet, and win $100!

This year's theme is love; romance, heartbreak, or anything else related to your idea of love.

Runner-up entries will be published in the Features section. For submission guidelines and photo tips, e-mail feats@martlet.ca or stop by the Martlet office in SUB B011. Photos can be e-mailed as well as dropped off at the office.

The contest is open to current undergrad and graduate students. Contest deadline is February 5, at 5p.m.

SUB Party report urges end of similar events

by Matthew Gauk

A report drawn up in response to the September 2006 SUB Party disaster has been accepted as information by the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS).

The SUB Party, this year called SUB STANCE, is an annual event at the start of the school year that brings thousands of students together in the halls of the Student Union Building (SUB) for live music and good times.

This September, however, things fell apart as overcrowding led to fighting, stealing and someone pulling the fire alarm. Some SUB employees claimed that it created a dangerous work environment.

The report, created by Director of Services Mark Chandler and UVSS Business Operations Manager Dale Robertson, outlines the problems that plagued the September event, identifies the causes of those problems and offers clear-cut solutions to deal with similar issues in the future.

The report also recommends that the UVSS not host another SUB Party-like event until September 2008.

"People are willing to put themselves in danger to get into a party," said UVSS Chairperson Penny Beames of those students who crashed the party by sneaking in. "We need to break them of that culture."

The report acknowledges that at least two SUB Party volunteers who were supposed to be taking patrons' tickets and exchanging them for wristbands "were reusing the tickets and passing them over the fence to friends."

It also adds that "several volunteers showed up intoxicated and were relieved from their duties early." Beames said that the term "volunteer" can include board members.

At the original UVSS board-of-directors debate on the SUB Party in its immediate aftermath in October, SUB employees accused unnamed board members of having been complicit in the wrongdoings at the front gate, and Chandler said he was "ashamed at the board that night."

Perhaps the greatest factor in the overcrowding, which has been identified by board members and SUB staff as the cause of the anarchy, was the use of the SUB roof by students wanting to gain free Access to the party. The report states that two years ago a tenant of the SUB had an exterior storage locker near the building, but it was removed to keep students from getting on the roof.

"We have a new tenant that mid-September started construction, and a new locker was built without my knowledge. [This] oversight ... led to dozens of people on the roof," states the report.

Dozens of people were caught and removed from the event, but many slipped in. The extra staff pulled from other locations to deal with the roof problem led to "vulnerabilities on the perimeter," leaving the perimeter open to "fence jumpers" and a group that entered through the back door to Vertigo.

The inability of the headlining bands to draw and keep a crowd in the Michelle Pujol Room is cited as one factor in the overcrowding in Felicita's, Vertigo and the hallways of the SUB.

This bears out student complaints like those of Eddie, a fourth-year anthropology student, who told the *Martlet* that "there were no good bands. Bring back Gob."

No punitive action was recommended in the report for the unnamed board members found guilty of inappropriate behaviour.

"The board does not have the ability to take punitive action against other board members, with the exception of a motion to censure. This action was not taken," wrote Chandler in an e-mail. "If another event of this nature is planned, the alleged board members would not be allowed to volunteer for the event."

No claims of responsibility, whether the board of directors' or otherwise, were made other than for the shed-to-roof incident.

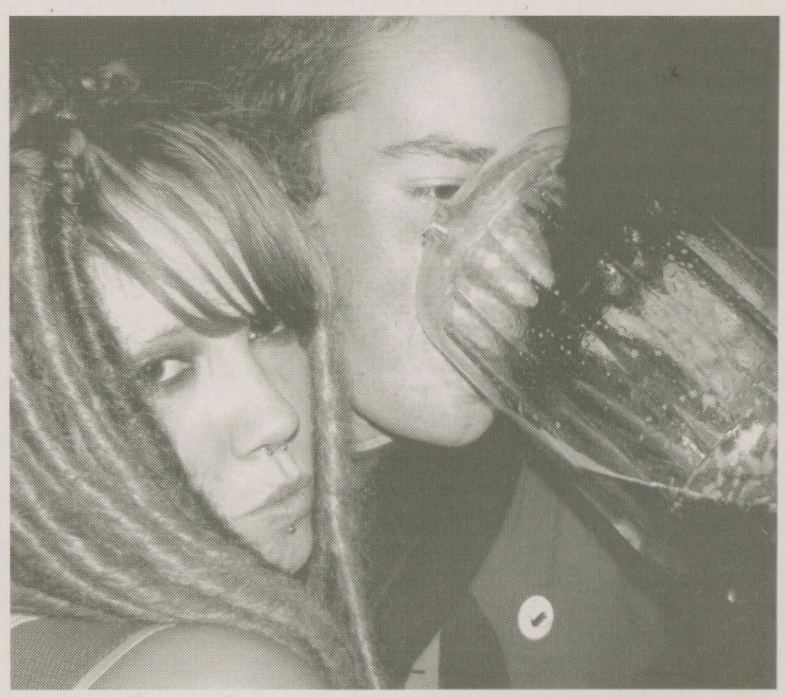
The report recommends that no event with a capacity of more than 750 people be planned before September 2008. The April Grad Party event should still be considered, according to the report, as it never sells out and the crowd is "typically much more mature." Chandler and Robertson lay out a number of other solutions—everything from limiting or eliminating glassware in Felicita's (as a significant amount of glassware leaked out when the fire alarm was pulled) to having an executive director be responsible for each gate and watch the other volunteers or eliminating the volunteers altogether and using professionals.

Beames notes that the next board could potentially choose to make decisions that counter the recommendations laid out in the report.

"These are recommendations for the future," said Beames. "We're trying to impart some wisdom on to next year's board."

Other incidents mentioned in the report include a group of people trying to sneak into the party from the CFUV radio station office in the basement of the SUB and attempts by people to get onto the roof from a tree near the Cinecenta entrance.

Another problem found by the report was that partygoers were over-consuming alcohol and that some were drinking directly from their beer pitchers.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

The SUB Party is remembered for the evening's chaos.

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SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fri. Feb. 9th, 2007

10:30am SUB Room B025

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Motion to Amend Bylaw 8.1.a.i.

WHEREAS few students have applied for graduation in October; and

WHEREAS attendance at the Graduating Class Annual General Meeting in October has traditionally been very low; therefore

BIRT Bylaw 8.1.a.i. be amended to read as follows:

The Annual General Meeting of the Graduating Class shall be held in the first fifteen (15) days of November.

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For more information call 721-8370 or email chair@uvss.uvic.ca

YOUR YEAR • YOUR PARTY

Issues at UVSS meeting include elections, Access UVic

by Matthew Gauk

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board meeting on Jan. 29 degenerated into paper-airplane throwing and quorum-breaking in its third hour. But that doesn't mean the student reps weren't accomplishing anything.

The independent investigation into last year's election, which was called for at the UVSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the fall, still hasn't occurred. Instead, the UVSS has put the question of electoral reform to its own organizational development committee.

"There was a motion on the floor in December to ask if Martine Conway, the ombudsperson, would be willing to take on the role ascribed to her [regarding the investigation] at the AGM," said Penny Beames, UVSS chairperson. "I asked her; she said she would be willing. The board has yet to take her up on that."

The UVSS Board of Directors made a number of electoral policy changes, although they weren't as dramatic as those made in mid-January.

The push for electoral reform came after last year's election controversy, in which two chairperson candidates were disqualified for breaking campaign regulations. This year's board of directors asked the Organizational Development Committee to draw up appropriate changes, and over the last two meetings, the board has approved these changes.

The reforms passed at the Jan. 29 meeting mostly focus on the clarification of electoral policy and setting up the use of written records in the area of complaints, discipline and enforcement.

Minor and major election offences, and ways to deal with them, are outlined in the reforms. If, for example, a candidate committed a minor offence twice, the electoral office would issue a second warning (that a third offence would result in disqualification), remove 50 per cent of the candidate's posters and set up a meeting between the candidate and the electoral committee to discuss the offences.

Major offences, including "acting maliciously against ... another campaign," "harassing anyone involved with or outside the election campaign" and "making, joining or participating in any online communities that promote or defame one candidate in the UVSS election that have not been authorized in advance by the chief electoral officer," will result in the disqualification of the guilty party. The term "online communities" refers to websites such as YouTube, although the offence applies to candidates alone and not to students.

Another motion that passed dealt with offences committed by third parties in their endorsement of particular candidates. In past elections, third-party endorsement was forbidden.

These latest changes stipulate that if a third party violates electoral regulations, their endorsement may be stripped and the candidate being endorsed would be responsible for removing all materials advertising the endorsement.

The directors also voted on a number of financial expenditure approvals. Up to $700 was allocated from the UVSS Capital Fund to purchase a new grinder for the kitchen and up to $1,157 was put toward a new motor for the washing machine in the kitchen.

As well, up to $1,250 was allocated to purchase a new computer for the UVSS general office, and another $1,250 was put toward purchasing a new computer for the general manager.

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Kyla Berry, Access UVic rep and director-at-large, put several motions before the board that are tabled for the Feb. 12 meeting.

Several motions put forward by Access UVic, the UVSS constituency group for students with disabilities, were tabled for the next board meeting.

These proposals come from a harassment and discrimination complaint filed by Access to UVic Equity and Human Rights over a clash between Access and the UVSS when certain members of Access were accused of misusing student funds. The conflict resulted in Access members being temporarily locked out of their office in the summer of 2005.

The first motion by Access UVic representative and director-at-large Kyla Berry was for the board to arrange for a "highly skilled and external professional mediation" between the UVSS and Access, pending direction from UVic Equity and Human Rights.

Berry also has an impending motion for the board to attend a workshop that Access has developed on disability issues, rights and activism.

Another motion calls for a committee of board of directors and Access members to be struck to support, facilitate and promote the profile and work of the constituency group.

Lastly, Berry put forward a motion to get the advocacy council of the UVSS to clarify the relationship of the students' society to its constituency organizations (such as Access) and "the political/financial independence of advocacy groups, including spending guidelines and procedures for disputes."

In addition, the motion states that a task force should be appointed to develop "a confidential internal complaint process within the UVSS that includes a route for appeal and/or review of decisions made by the general manager of the UVSS."

The next UVSS board of directors meeting will be on Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the small side of the Michelle Pujol Room in the Student Union Building.

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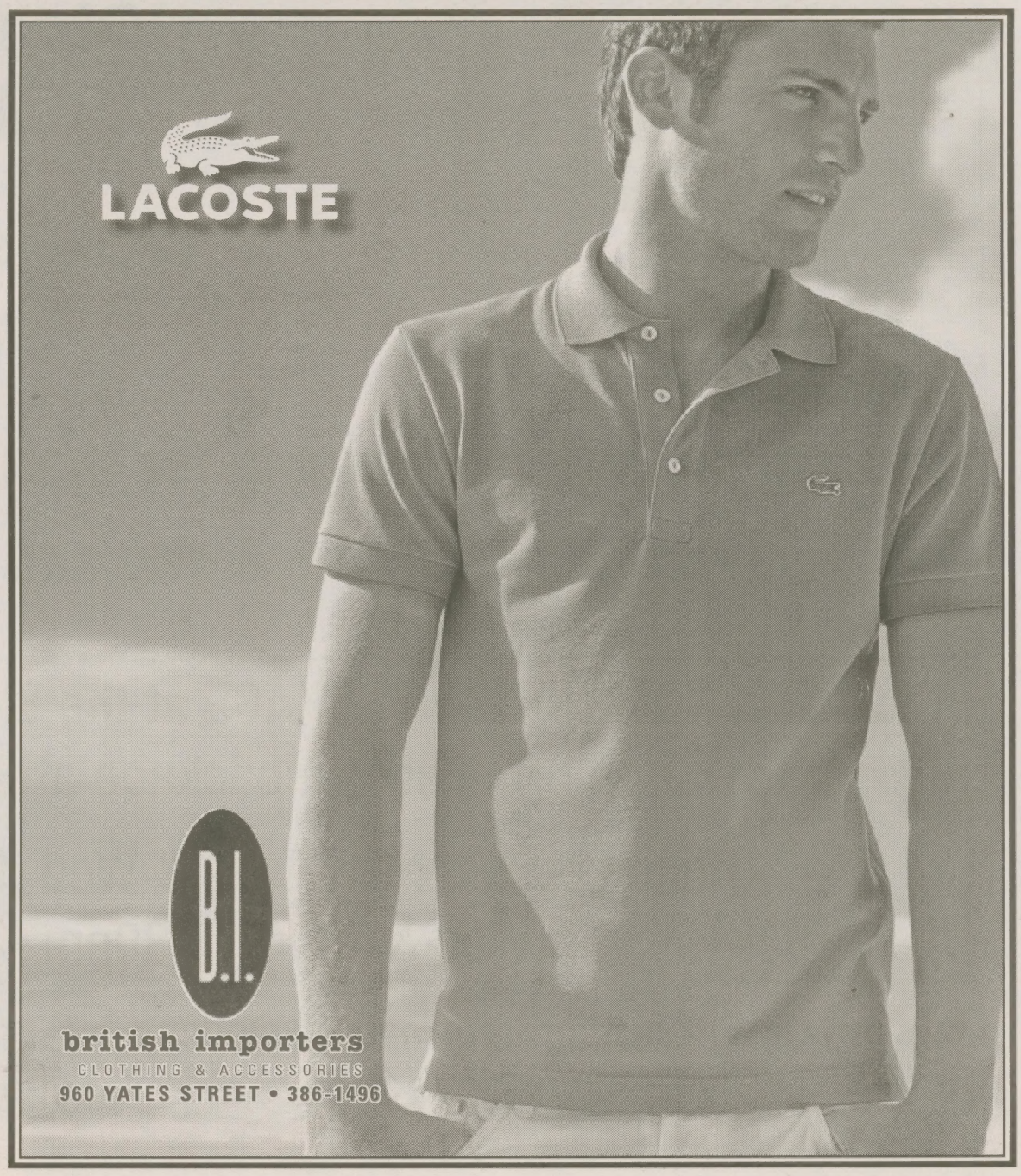

Students get SPOKES ... and tires, chains and seats

UVic bicycle loan program has more bikes than customers

by Sam VanSchie

Hiding at the back of the parkade under the University Centre is a locked cage holding more than 50 bicycles in various states of repair waiting for volunteer mechanics to tune them up and turn them out to students who apply for the SPOKES bike bursary.

SPOKES is an unlikely acronym for Student For Kickstands Etcetera Salvaging. The club lends donated bikes to applicants for up to one year.

In exchange, recipients put a little time and money back into the bike and often return it in better shape than they received it in. They may also volunteer to fix other SPOKES bikes.

"It's a karma-based program," said organizer Sarah Webb who, on Jan. 20, arranged the club's best bikes outside the cage for recipients to choose from while her husband entertained their newborn baby nearby.

Webb is on maternity leave until June from her job as campus sustainability co-ordinator but has worked for SPOKES on a volunteer basis since its formation in 2003. She was instrumental in turning SPOKES from an idea presented by three students in her environmental studies class into a club that has given out 176 bikes to date.

Currently, the club is in the midst of distributing their January fleet of bikes. They loan out 15 to 20 bikes each semester depending on the number of applicants and available bikes. Usually there is a surplus of the latter.

"We have tons of bikes," said Webb. "Right now you're guaranteed if you apply you'll get a bike within a year."

Beyond diverting bikes from the landfill, SPOKES aims to introduce students to the benefits of commuter cycling.

"When you've got a bike, you don't need a parking pass," said Webb.

Webb also emphasized the health and environmental benefits of cycling.

For third-year student Erika Verlinden, having a bike is a necessity.

"I'm training for a triathlon," said Verlinden, holding the red girls' hybrid commuter cycle she selected to borrow for the year. Her bike was stolen last summer and she has since been commuting to campus by bus.

Another recipient, Tim Hall, is an exchange student from Australia. He lives on campus but wants to explore more. He picked a shiny black and yellow mountain bike to take back to his student residence.

"We get a wide range of applicants each year," explained Webb. "We try to fit them to the bike that suits their needs, whether they're commuting a long way to campus or just using it to get around on weekends."

WILLIE LI PHOTO

SPOKES repairman William Rondow poses with some of the tools of the trade in the parkade of University Centre.

If they don't have the right bike for a student, the club is happy to build something to suit them. Volunteer mechanics and students keen to learn new skills meet three times a week to work on the SPOKES bikes.

Applications for the SPOKES bicycle program are online.

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

U V S S

ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS OPEN:

Mon, Feb 5, 9am

NOMINATIONS CLOSE:

Mon, Feb 12, 4pm

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For further information, please contact the Elections Office:
Phone: 472-5397 Email: election@uvss.uvic.ca

Abortions on the rise for university-aged students

by Micah Luxen

While university is notorious for real-life sex education, real-life pregnancies are few and far between on campus.

"Almost every day, someone comes in with an unexpected pregnancy," said Heather McAdam, a nurse with the Island Sexual Health Society (ISHS). "Probably nine out of 10 of those women choose to terminate the pregnancy."

Although pregnancies in general are down approximately 13 per cent across Canada over the last 10 years, the number of induced abortions in B.C. and the rest of the country has increased in that same amount of time.

Of about 2,000 abortions that happen every year in Victoria, the majority of women who chose to terminate a pregnancy are between the ages of 20 to 24, which is the average age of a UVic student.

"Many students are a year from getting their degree, and they really don't want to postpone their education," said Dr. Konia Trouton, medical director at the Vancouver Island Women's Clinic.

"With the mindset to finish school, students are probably renting a place and haven't solidified their lives yet," said Dr. Trouton. "When a baby comes along, they want to be able to give him or her a good environment to grow up in."

One social-work student at this university, who wishes to remain anonymous to protect the identity of her friends, admits she was shocked at the prevalence of abortion.

"I know a few people who have had abortions, but I didn't realize it was that many," said the student. "I know a friend of mine, who is 18, just had an abortion a few weeks ago."

She also said that while schedules might affect a woman's choice to keep a baby, there is a certain stigma surrounding pregnancy.

"Another friend of mine gave birth to a little boy a year ago and she gave him up for adoption. She still doesn't want people to know about it, and that's fine. I totally respect that, but I think it has to do with the fact that she doesn't want people thinking of her as a slut or something."

According to Dr. Trouton, in addition to the inconvenience and the stereotyping, pregnancy itself is a challenge.

"Being pregnant is really an awful experience, especially during the first trimester—some people get very ill," said Dr. Trouton.

However, with the right resources, it is possible for a woman to keep her baby while staying healthy and happy.

"It really depends if she has a good support network," said Romina Wachholz, a practicum student at the ISHS. "Are her parents involved? Is she with a partner? Tons of factors. Can she support herself and the baby financially?"

At UVic, students can take advantage of on-campus counselling, peer helpers, child care and UVic Health Services, where students can meet with doctors and nurses.

Although she did take some time off, Alisa Harrison, a sessional instructor in the women's study department, was pregnant as a student.

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Approximately 2,000 abortions occur every year in Victoria.

"People were great," said Harrison. "I was anticipating problems just because I try not to be naïve about people's perceptions, but people were really warm."

Harrison was most impressed with the reactions of her professors, who she said were extremely understanding of her situation.

"Now I try to pay it forward."

Harrison said the pregnancy certainly never stood in her way.

The most important lesson many have learned is that when students are sexually active, there is no guarantee they won't face an unexpected pregnancy one day.

"I think it's simply that people think that it won't happen to them," said Wachholz.

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ASHLEY AKINS PHOTO

Children in the Peruvian Andes have a better chance at heading to college thanks to Mosqoy.

Strands for sustainability

Student preserves Quechua textile culture

by Amanda Hale

In January 2006, UVic student Ashley Akins flew to Central America with two goals in mind: to learn Spanish and to make a difference.

Akins's ambition led her to Peru to establish a non-profit organization in the Sacred Valley region, an area known best for its jutting Andes Mountains and traditional handcrafted weavings.

The organization, called Mosqoy (the Quechua word for "dream"), consists of two projects, Proyecto Colibri and Banco de Jovenes.

Proyecto Colibri, named after the Andean hummingbird—a symbol for hope, regeneration and rebirth—provides a stable outlet for Peruvian women to sell their textiles to North America, while revamping the textile industry in order to revitalize the importance of weaving in Peruvian culture.

Banco de Jovenes, a loan fund for high school students in Ollantaytambo, sponsors students who want to attend college but can't pay tuition. Both projects, said Akins, seek to realize the dreams of local Peruvians.

"My goal was for everything—the textile project, the youth bank and other local projects—to come together to make a difference," said Akins, a third-year environmental studies and Hispanic studies student.

Her journey began in Ollantaytambo, Peru, a small community outside of Machu Picchu. The town, one of the last Spanish-speaking communities in the area, is surrounded by mountains and rural Quechua-speaking villages.

After volunteering with a local museum on a textile project in Huilloc, Akins moved to Ollantaytambo, where she lived with a local family, cutting corn on their farm and learning about weaving.

"Weaving is very central to their culture," said Akins. "People wore beautiful weavings from head to toe. Even the little boys wore their weavings to play in the mud."

While colourful weavings were visible in the village, Akins soon learned that underlying problems were surfacing in the textile industry. Many Quechua people in the rural villages didn't have the means to sell their textiles and had to walk seven hours a day to sell weavings at the nearest market, a hike that often wasn't financially

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

UVSS SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CFS FCE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2007 - 3:00pm, MICHÉLE PUJOL ROOM *(large side)*

*Please Recycle

- AGENDA -

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
   a. **Agenda of 07/02/15 SAGM**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   a. **Minutes of 06/10/19 AGM**
5. **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Motion to amend Bylaw 18.3 – Right of Constituency Organisations to a voting representative on the Students' Society Board of Director
BIRT Bylaw 18.3 be amended as follows:
Bylaw 18.3.c.
WHEREAS currently constituency groups must hold a general meeting to appoint any Board representative; and
WHEREAS this process is time consuming, potentially expensive, and generally excessive, and as a result, many of the positions sit empty; therefore
BIRT if a Board representative from any advocacy group resigns from office, the advocacy group's governing body may appoint a member as an interim representative to sit on the Board until the next scheduled general meeting.

Motion to amend Bylaw 13 – Finances of the Students' Society
BIRT Bylaw 13 be amended as follows:
Bylaw 13.7
WHEREAS a referendum was held to direct student funds to the UVSS Women's Centre; and
WHEREAS these funds are currently held in a trust account; and
WHEREAS this trust account is not being controlled by the Women's Centre; and
WHEREAS to function as equity seeking advocates for marginalized students the Women's Centre must be control of the funds directed to them; therefore
BIRT student fees collected on behalf of the Women's Centre be directed in their entirety to an account specified by the Women's Centre.
BIFRT the Women's Centre manages funds according to their constitution and bylaws and be subject to the UVSS annual audit.

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.2 – Leaves of Absence
BIRT Bylaw 10.2 be amended to read as follows:
10.2 Leaves of Absence
Directors shall be permitted to take leaves of absence during the summer to facilitate co-op, work, or any school related activity that removes the Director from the Greater Victoria area.

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.3 – Absences from Board of Directors' Meetings
BIRT Bylaw 10.3 be amended to read as follows:
10.3 Absences from Board of Directors' Meetings
a. A Director who has missed four (4) Board meetings throughout her term without prior notice to the Board of Directors, except in the case of illness, shall be considered to have resigned.
   i. Written warning shall be provided to a Director upon missing the third meeting without prior notice.
   ii. The Director shall be considered to have resigned upon adjournment of the first meeting missed without prior notice after having received written warning.
   iii. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.
   iv. In the case that Directors' meetings must be scheduled on short notice, all reasonable efforts shall be made to notify all Directors. If a Director misses a meeting scheduled on short notice without submitting regrets, the Director may be excused of her absence if she can demonstrate that she was unable to receive notice of the meeting missed.
b. Directors must attend 50% of Board meetings throughout the Fall and Spring terms.
   i. This bylaw applies to Board meetings scheduled during the Fall and Spring term as set by the Board at the beginning of its term.
   ii. After December, a Board member who has missed 50% or more of Board meetings will be issued a final written warning. If her cumulative attendance falls below 50% after having received written warning, she will be considered to have resigned.
   iii. The Director will be considered to have resigned at the adjournment of the meeting, following final written notice, at which her attendance falls below 50%.
   iv. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.

6. **REPORTS**
   a. **Board of Directors Report**

Motion to adopt the report of the Board of Directors
BIRT the February 2007 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

   b. **Directors at Large Reports**

Motion to adopt the reports of the Directors at Large
BIRT the reports of the Directors at Large be adopted as presented.

7. **QUESTION PERIOD (limit 30 minutes)**
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **NOTICE OF MOTION**
10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

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ASHLEY AKINS PHOTO

Ashley Akin's non-profit organization helps Quechua women sell their textiles.

worthwhile to them.

Tourism was another obstacle. Young Quechua women were no longer learning the art of ancient weaving but instead sold their grandparents' textiles to tourists.

"They see the art form as an economic exchange rather than as a tradition to take pride in," said Akins.

But for many Quechua elders, the beneficiary element of traditional weaving isn't the money—it's the link between Incan ancestors and their communities. Each tapestry or handmade table runner tells a story that weaves into future generations, preserving histories and ancient symbols of Quechua past.

"There is a real sense of pride for the Quechua; the textiles represented who they are," said Akins.

In an attempt to restore pride in their tradition, Akins showed the Quechua women why outsiders take interest in their traditional weavings and the stories behind them.

She negotiated textile prices with the workers and bought $2,000 worth of colourful wallets, purses, ponchos, scarves, toques, table runners and tapestries to sell back in North America.

As part of her project, Akins tries to educate consumers about the history behind their weavings. Each woven Mosqoy gift comes with a small brochure including a detailed biography of every weaver, a step-by-step instruction of the weaving process and a chart explaining the cultural significance behind each symbol and traditional dye.

"I want people to buy more than just a pretty weaving," said Akins. "They're buying the stories."

With the income from Proyecto Colibri, plus the donated money from individual sponsors, Mosqoy plans to send 20 ambitious students each year from the graduating class in Ollantaytambo to a technical institute in Cusco.

Tuition is low in comparison to Canada's—only $500 CAD per student each year, and a contract between a student and Mosqoy requires that students give back to their family and community, both with time and a portion of their earnings, after they graduate and establish a career.

"Eventually, the project should be completely sustained by students so that graduates can pave the way for their younger brothers and sisters," said Akins.

Since she returned to Canada last August, both Proyecto Colibri and Banco de Jovenes have seen major successes. Twenty Peruvian students will attend college this March, and Akins has sold $3,000 worth of textiles to consumers in Canada and the U.S. All of the proceeds go toward Banco de Jovenes and other local projects in Peru.

In the future, Akins hopes to gain project connections through UVic and receive Canadian charitable status in order to exhibit her textiles at museums and sell them as fair trade items in Victoria and Vancouver.

But time, Akins said, is always an obstacle.

"I feel a lot of pressure because I'm a perfectionist in both school and in the organization," she said. "Mosqoy is a full-time job, except I don't get paid."

Akins is constantly inspired by her students, and receiving their letters and updates motivates her to stay focused for her future goals in Mosqoy.

In May, Akins will return to Peru to fulfil those goals, visiting her students in their new classrooms and apartments in Cusco. She'll also start selecting the 20 new students to attend college in March 2008.

As for Proyecto Colibri, Akins hopes to connect with more remote villages in the Sacred Valley region and establish formal agreements for her textile project.

"It will take a lot of hiking and researching, but I want every village to have a chance to participate [in the project] if they choose to do so."

Akins dreams that in five years, Mosqoy will be a "vehicle" for strengthening the sustainability of Peru's Sacred Valley region.

"I want Mosqoy to be a reliable project for weavers to count on, both for their economy and for a source of motivation to be proud of their culture and art."

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The National Student Day of Action

Wednesday
February 7th, 2007
11:30am-2pm

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Meeting:
Tuesday January 30th at 4:30pm
Student Union Building
Michel Pujol room (small side)

web:
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Editorial

Get out for Day of Action

On Wednesday, Feb. 7 college and university students will be given the opportunity to make a difference, to let the government know what they think and, of course, to skip classes.

Organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a group funded by your student fees, the National Student Day of Action will be a time for over 500,000 post-secondary students across the country to protest high tuition.

Twenty-four institutions in Canada—including UVic, Simon Fraser University and Queen's University—have granted their students academic amnesty for the event so that they can attend protests. It's not often that a non-religious holiday gets such status. The City of Victoria has even agreed to allow attendees a free bus ride to the event.

The UVic Students' Society is banking on you to show up and make the day a success. UVic and Camosun students will gather at the legislature in the morning. At 11 a.m. they'll listen to a DJ and after that, according to the schedule, there is 10 minutes allotted for rallying, which Victoria's Day of Action website describes as "yelling stuff at the government while waving placards."

The rest of day will be spent listening to guest speakers—such as NDP MP Denise Savoie, First Nations Elder Greg Sam and Victoria-Hillside MLA Rob Fleming—and singing petitions, listening to music and munching on free wraps and coffee.

There's been a ton of promotion at UVic—posters, opinion articles in this paper, websites, chalk messages on sidewalks and cardboard coasters at Felicita's—to try to get the notoriously blasé student population off their asses and out to the legislature's lawn to help persuade the government to reduce tuition fees by 10 per cent.

And while students at UVic are more likely to go out and wave signs denouncing high tuition fees than the more apathetic student population in central Canada, you'll probably find that most students will happily use the Day of Action as a day for sloth—unless you count sitting on the couch and watching a Steven Seagal movie as action.

It would have been a stronger show of support and given politicians a clear message of how important the issue is to students if we flooded the legislature without the cushion of academic amnesty. And those who don't care about the rally could attend the classes they paid their high tuition for instead of sleeping in until noon.

But with nothing to loose by skipping class, students might as well join the party at the leg. Last year's rally may not have done much to reduce tuition, but in 2005 a cap on tuition fees was put in place in B.C., thanks to CFS's continual prodding.

So instead of watching soaps or seducing your residence crush (that's not what they mean by Day of Action), get off your butt and wave a placard—maybe yell some stuff.

You paid for it; you might as well enjoy the "free" food.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. every Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

Reduced student debt benefits all

by Ben Johnson
Campaign Organizer

You've seen the posters, you've seen the teams of volunteers canvassing the campus with petitions and perhaps you've even met Abunga the Cow. It's all for the national Day of Action—a campaign to get the provincial government to reinvest in post-secondary education and reduce student debt.

This campaign is easy to get behind. Tuition hikes and the elimination of the grants program have hit students hard over the past few years. And it's easy to see the effects—use of the food bank has increased exponentially, more students are choosing to live at home to save money and many students have to take on several part-time jobs and extra shifts.

Students aren't the only demographic that is concerned about the increasing cost of education. A recent Ipsos-Reid poll found that 80 per cent of British Columbians support a reduction in tuition fees.

This is clearly not an issue that cleaves along partisan or even arguably along class lines. This is everyone's campaign, and everyone stands to benefit from it.

Financially accessible colleges and universities make it possible for people to get the educations they need to become productive and contributing members of society, whether they go on to become welders, teachers or astrophysicists. An educated population makes for a healthy society and a healthy economy. Victoria City Council agrees; they voted in favour of endorsing the upcoming rally.

Parents and baby boomers are speaking out on this issue as well. They are eager to see better funding for post-secondary education.

But "reduce student debt" doesn't exactly cover it—it's more like "reduce student and parent debt," because many parents, wanting to see their children find opportunities in life, are footing the bill for their education.

Many students support the campaign in principle but ask, "Why should I bother going down to the legislature on Feb. 7? The government isn't going to listen."

But the government does listen, and these rallies are effective. They responded to our demands to cap tuition at inflation in 2005, and now we want them to reduce it by 10 per cent.

If you think that the government doesn't listen, you're sorely mistaken. They keep meticulous records of public opinion, letters to MLAs and petitions. The point here is: if students and supporters show up thousands strong at the legislature on Feb. 7 with thousands of signatures to deliver to the government—you can bet your ass that they will listen.

ON THE SPOT

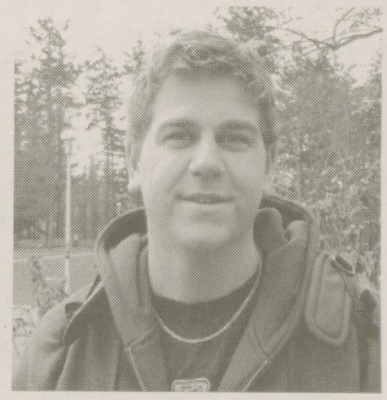
by Wesley Scott
This week's question:
Are you planning to attend the Student Day of Action on Feb. 7?

Liam Begley

Not sure. Doesn't seem to do much good. The people at the legislature will probably just close their windows and continue on as always.

Charlynne Guay

I'd like to go, yeah, if it fits into my schedule, because I have a debt I'd like to protest.



Serge Yager

I have no clue what it is. I profess total ignorance.

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University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Cover image by Anthony Frattaroli and Steven Masuch

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Vikes, a failed attempt to please

Our politically correct team name isn't even a word

by Kailer Mullet

Prior to 1993, UVic athletics teams had two names. Female athletes were Vikettes and men were Vikings.

But political correctness demanded we scrap the gendering suffixes. And like most actions aimed at pleasing everyone, this ended up pleasing no one. Especially me.

I mean, what the hell is a Vike? It's nothing. It's not a word; it's not anything.

We must be the only university that made up a word to call our team. There are 400,000 words in the English language, but none of them quite captured what we wanted to say about our athletic prowess. There were plenty of words for Shakespeare, but the athletics department found the Bard of Avon's language just a tad too confining.

Even if we allow the clumsy abbreviation, it does not excuse the fact that naming the team after Vikings in the first place was lame and possibly even a bit racist. I called Pete Lewis, the Vikes PR guy, but he could not tell me why the original choice was made to name our team after the Scandinavian seamen.

The Minnesota football team of the same name owes its choice to the fact that Minnesota, from an American perspective, is in the north, just like the original Vikings were. It makes sense.

But this geographical argument doesn't work for Victoria. Vikings were from Norway, a country from which Victoria lies further away than any other Canadian city.

If we were in Newfoundland, it would be a different matter. Vikings actually landed there. Calling a team, say, the Dildo Vikings (to pick a town at random) is symbolically representative of the geographical and historical character of Newfoundland.

The only significance I could see Vikings having to Victoria would be that it plays at our aquatic nature, what with being on an island and all. If this were the case, then the designation would be overly Eurocentric. There were indigenous tribes that lived an aquatic lifestyle—why not name the team after them?

Personally, I don't really think that the name is racist, but I do think it's lame, and that's why I propose we change the name.

Why not name the team after something unique to Victoria? Something we're all proud of—like Steve Nash!

Who among us wouldn't want to be a part of the UVic Steve Nashes? The Nash legend would strike fear into the hearts of our opponents. After all, he is the greatest athlete Canada has ever produced.

Sure, you could say Gretzky, but Gretzky was successful at ice hockey, which doesn't count for much. Being Canadian and successful at hockey is like being Scottish and good at caber tossing—it's just expected.

Nash is successful at something the rest of the world actually cares about. He's lean, homely and whiter than Winnipeg in winter—if that doesn't say Victoria, I don't know what does.

Pickton trial shows society's failure

Children exploited in sex trade need protection, not prejudice

by Rosemary Westwood

Five years after his arrest, Robert William Pickton stands before judge and jury facing six of the 26 murder charges laid against him. His arrest was a triumph for the RCMP and Vancouver Police's Joint Missing Women Task Force, which was under pressure to solve the missing persons cases of over 50 sex workers from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

But more than showing the perversion of the alleged mass murderer, this case illuminates our failure as a society to protect the most vulnerable in our communities—children exploited through the sex trade.

The police took their sweet time to start the investigation, perhaps influenced by the same prejudices that many affluent individuals hold: street workers are dirty, drug addicted and hopeless; they're worth less than teachers, businesspeople and students.

For all the innumerable paths that take someone to the point of selling his or her body to survive on the streets, there are very few roads out of the sex trade. And yet blame is placed on these victims. "They choose this lifestyle," some say. "They're adults."

At the time of their disappearances, the six murdered women were indeed adults. But chances are they had been in that lifestyle for years, maybe decades. The average age of entry into the sex trade in B.C. is 13, right around Grade 8 and the age of puberty. It's called sexual exploitation, and it's illegal.

In B.C. and across Canada, children are sold mostly from hotels and suburban homes. One conservative estimate found that about 200 children in Victoria are exploited in the sex trade.

The failure illuminated by the Pickton case is the failure of law enforcement and the general public to stop the abuse against these exploited children who grow up to be abused sex-trade workers. Too often the police's hands are tied—willingly or unwillingly—to act when an exploited youth or prostitute reports abuse.

Victims fear reprisal for their "lifestyle" and are justified. The low rate of convictions for abuse against sexually exploited youth and sex-trade workers seems to say that our society finds it less disgusting when somebody punches, slaps or mutilates a sex worker. It's this reasoning, however twisted, that appears to be, in part, why it took 19 years after the first woman was reported missing for the task force to arrest Pickton.

Not only does our society fail to protect children exploited in the sex trade, but it also fails to prosecute the men willing to pay for the chance to abuse youth. And these men aren't the stereotypical bogeymen in cult-like garments or the creepy guys with greasy long hair. The men exploiting these kids are most often fathers themselves. Any good businessperson knows that supply is useless without demand, and so we need to address why some men desire to have sex with children.

What the Pickton trial shows is more than the alleged grotesque acts of one person—it shows our equally grotesque silence while thousands of children are enslaved in the sex trade.

Armenian activist assassinated in Turkey

Protests at Hrant Dink's funeral may unify supporters to combat racism

by Can Mutlu

Two weeks ago, the Armenian community in Turkey lost one of its members—a father, a husband and most of all an enlightened voice—a voice that was not afraid of threats from a racist constitution or bloodthirsty fascists.

Hrant Dink was assassinated in the Sisli district of Istanbul on Jan. 19 this year. During his funeral and protests following his assassination, thousands of Turks and Armenians shouted, "We are all Hrant!"

This was a historical moment—a hope for dialogue between the Turkish State and Armenian Diaspora was made possible.

In his life, Dink argued for intercultural dialogue and cultural coexistence—common values held by members of a liberal society. He was the editor of *Agos*, a daily newspaper of the Armenian community in Turkey.

He dedicated his life to defending the natural rights of his community. Many readers may not know the problematic nature of Turkish and Armenian relations or may have only heard of the Armenian genocide.

But Turks and Armenians have shared the same geography for centuries, and today the traces of this multiculturalism are visible all around Anatolia (an Asian part of Turkey) and Istanbul. During the first few centuries of the Ottoman Empire, Armenians were known as *millet-i sadika* (loyal nation) and served as the members of the Ottoman government and bureaucracy.

This changed at the end of the 19th century when waves of ethnic nationalism (in the modern European definition of the term) arrived at the Ottoman Empire's doorsteps, increasing tensions between the ruling group known as the Young Turks and the Armenian community. The rest is history—a bloody history indeed.

This "modern" history of Turkish-Armenian relations is a history of atrocities and cross-cultural conflict. As a result, there is a lack of interaction between these two communities to this day.

Still, hundreds of thousands of Armenians live in the Republic of Turkey, and Hrant Dink was a member of this community.

Dink was born into a "republican" Turkish society. He grew up in an Armenian orphanage in Istanbul, went to Armenian community schools and graduated from Istanbul University. He married during this period and had three children. During the military coup in 1980, Dink was held in custody for his connection with the Turkish left prior to the military coup.

In the '80s and '90s he stayed outside the Turkish political landscape running a bookstore in Istanbul while also administrating the orphanage he had grown up in.

Dink remained a supporter of the Armenian cause in Turkey, allowing the Armenian community to enjoy the rights and freedoms that were granted to them by the Turkish constitution.

In pursuit of his cause he wrote, calling for peace and prosperity. He asked for a dialogue between Turkey and all Armenians inside and outside Turkey. All he got in return was endless legal harassment.

In 2005 Dink was sued under the infamous 301st article of Turkish Constitution for insulting "Turkishness." Such a personal attack obfuscated his love of his country, his love of Turkish culture and his desire for Turks to allow Armenian culture to be recognized and celebrated.

While Dink's death is a tragedy, it's also an opportunity to re-establish a dialogue between the Turks and the Armenians.

In his death he can be an inspiration and help Turks and Armenians live up to their aspirations and embrace ideas of understanding and mutual respect, allowing both communities to live in peace.

Mr(s). Smith can't find a doctor

Much of Canada's health-care system just doesn't do transsexuals

by Lauren McKeon

TORONTO (CUP) — When Michelle B. booked an appointment with a renowned Toronto plastic surgeon, she wasn't expecting to be shown the door so quickly.

In fact, every time she enters a situation with a health-care provider—be it a surgeon or a general practitioner—there's a risk she'll be treated differently. But she says some reactions are impossible to ignore.

According to Michelle B., it took the doctor just one question to determine that he couldn't treat her: she was a transsexual. The doctor is not trained to operate on transsexuals and does not accept them as patients. "In a private clinic, I have the right to choose who I can safely look after," Michelle B. recalls him saying.

Michelle B. claims the doctor slammed his book down and yelled, "I don't do you people," before tearing out of his office. She didn't let him get away. She stopped him and yelled right back, "You can't treat people like that."

Michelle B. has since filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission about Dr. Robert Stubbs. Stubbs cannot comment on the incident or say whether Michelle B. was ever a patient due to doctor-patient confidentiality laws. None of the allegations have been proven.

Regardless of what the Human Rights Commission determines about the case, the findings of the Ontario Public Health Association's Trans Health Project show that a huge chunk of the health-care system in Canada has adopted the attitude that it just doesn't do transsexuals.

The findings point to huge gaps in trans-specific health care resulting from major cuts in funding since the 1990s. Marked among those are the removal of funding for electrolysis in 1992, the subsequent removal of sexual reassignment surgery (SRS) in 1998 and, most recently, the conditioned funding for hormone therapy—all services trans people deem invaluable to live comfortably in their own bodies.

Susan Gapka, one of the principal investigators for the project, says trans people have been erased from the health-care system. "There's such an absence, a volume of misunderstanding.... Our needs are not being attended to."

Martine Stonehouse knows it too well. When SRS was delisted, she was halfway through her transition. She says there was no consultation with the trans community on behalf of the government around the issue. She and the rest of the Ontario trans population were shocked to read an article in the *Toronto Sun* on Oct. 4, 1998, saying that SRS was gone—they had been assured only months earlier by government health officials that it would not be cut.

Stonehouse launched a case against the government the next year. In 2002, her case was linked to three more transsexuals who were left without the funds to transition once SRS was removed—operations can cost up to $50,000 each. It wasn't until 2003 that they reached a basic agreement with the government. But, less than 24 hours later, she says, Dalton McGuinty stepped into power and crushed negotiations, sending the case back to tribunal hearings.

Finally, in late 2005, after more than seven years, the government agreed to pay for her surgery. Two others who filed the case were granted the same funding. The fourth was refused because, unlike the others, he wasn't enrolled at the Gender Identity Disorder (GID) clinic at the Clarke Institute in 1998—one of the major restrictions the government set for funding.

Not that many transsexuals would blame Andy McDonald for steering clear of the institute until 2001. Now held by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the clinic remains affectionately dubbed Jurassic Clarke by trans people. A large part of the community points to its mandatory "real-life test" as a prime example of the medical circle's lack of understanding.

The real-life test requires that clinic patients live one to two years as their desired sex before being cleared for SRS. But, says Stonehouse, the time periods don't allow for flexibility. Some trans people have been living as the opposite birth sex for years, she points out, and know they are ready.

Plus, adds Carmen Mattioli, the general administrator at the Vancouver Transgender Health Program, the tests can make life very uncomfortable. "You're out there trying to be female," Mattioli gives as an example, "but all your bodily functions remain male."

And if a trans person has difficulty "passing" without surgery and hormones, they become vulnerable to ridicule and abuse from the public.

"It's like living in limbo," Stonehouse says of her extended real-life test.

Especially, she adds, because she won't marry her fiancé, whom she's dated since 2003, until she's completed her surgery. "Because," she gestures to the body part she seems uncomfortable even naming, "well, just because."

Despite being granted funding, she might not hear wedding bells any time soon. Part of the condition, she says, is that her surgery has to be done the way it was back in 1998. Since there are no publicly funded surgeons in Ontario who will do SRS, that means shipping her to England. Which might have been okay, she says, if the SRS surgeon there hadn't retired, leaving no likely successors.

But not all discrimination in the health-care system surrounds trans-specific care, warns Michelle B. The other problems, she says, are with basic needs and treatment in the ER.

Michelle B. remembers going to a Toronto hospital with a nasty case of food poisoning. When she arrived, staff were "scrambling to get IV bags" to hydrate her. As soon as her history became clear, she says, she was suddenly left

JORDAN MORNINGSTAR PHOTO

Martine Stonehouse has spent 23 years as head caretaker at Eastdale Collegiate, also known as the original Degrassi High. In her spare time, she's the trans rep on Canadian Union of Public Employee's Pink Triangle Committee.

JORDAN MORNINGSTAR PHOTO

Julia Duchess hails from Newtown, Conn. where she's founder and president of Pragmatic Designs, an engineering and inventing company. She was married to her husband, James Flechner, on Sept. 30.

JORDAN MORNINGSTAR PHOTO

Rhimjim "Rimmy" K. recently emigrated from the U.S. with the hope of becoming "a part of the mainstream." When not working as a business analyst, she volunteers her time to help others in the GBTL community.

JORDAN MORNINGSTAR PHOTO

"I plan to be the next city councillor for Ward 27," exclaims Susan Gapka, a tireless student, activist and political hopeful. When she isn't chasing political dreams, Gapka works towards her undergrad degree in political science at York University.

JORDAN MORNINGSTAR PHOTO

Artist, filmmaker and musician Boyd Kodak (pictured with partner Catherine Grant) was the first person to win a human rights case based on transphobia, in 1984. Their son is now a successful ballet dancer.

alone. She stayed there overnight, receiving the occasional glass of juice.

"And I never saw another doctor after that," she says.

Gapka adds that many general practitioners will leap to the conclusion that any complaints are trans-related. You can go in with a sore throat, she says, and the doctor will say, "Oh, it's got to be your hormones."

And if you don't hear something like that, Michelle B. adds (she also worked on the Trans Health Project with Gapka), you'll get transferred from doctor to doctor like "a ping-pong tranny."

In her ideal world there would be a central repository of information on transsexuals and health care. This would not be a place to send trans patients, but a place where physicians could go to get the answers they needed. Especially those in rural regions—areas the project shows have higher instances of trans-health ignorance.

"Suppose a general practitioner in Hicksville, Ont., freaks out. We can say, 'No, it's okay, here's a number you can call; they'll walk you through it.'"

These health-care barriers become layered if you're a trans person of colour, says Rupert Raj. Raj, who is of Polish and South Asian decent, has been a trans activist for over 30 years. Currently, he works at the Sherbourne Health Centre as a counsellor for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people (GLBT)—one of the only places in Ontario that actively provides trans-positive health care.

Raj appeared in a movie called *Rewriting the Script: A Love Letter to Our Families*, which dealt with the experiences of GLBT South Asians and their families. He says people need to understand that trans people don't live in a vacuum—they have family, friends, culture and religion just like anyone. And if you're coming from a background where your family doesn't understand, you could wind up leading a fragmented life, being a different person everywhere you go.

It's harder to access health care when you feel ostracized like that, Mattioli says. Young trans people of colour with no family or community support especially have trouble accessing the system. Their parents generally don't want to help them do something as "deviant" as changing genders.

And when parents do get involved with their child's health care, it's often to "fix" them.

Mattioli recalls a group session he facilitated at the Vancouver Transgender Health Program between parents and children. There was a Chinese mother who was adamant that her daughter, who identified as male, was mixed up.

She didn't want him to be a he, Mattioli says. She also didn't want him to be in group therapy, since she was convinced "we were going to brainwash him."

Reece Lagartera, a trans man of Philippine descent, says his circumstances are different because he's been in the public eye for years as a drag king. His parents want him to live the way he wants, but there are still little things like using the correct pronouns. They brush stuff like that off as a North American thing, he says.

But not all trans people of colour are so fortunate, he adds. He knows landed immigrants who are trans who have difficulty accessing the health system. Not only are they likely to come to the country with no job and little money, he says, there are also huge language barriers. In some languages, like his parents', the word "transgender" doesn't even exist. So how would they even know where to begin?

That's why, he explains, he hasn't had the formal discussion with his father. "He wouldn't even know what the word meant. How do you explain being a transsexual? There's no concept."

TRANS CARE IN B.C.

While transgender patients in Ontario are facing barrier after barrier, the situation is slightly better in British Columbia.

Vancouver Coastal Health launched the Transgender Health Program in 2003 to improve health care for trans people in B.C. With resource lists for everything from health to housing, the Transgender Health Program has also established guidelines for the medical community. The Trans Care Project—formed with the Transgender Support and Education Society and completed in 2006—provides both clinical guidelines and training frameworks to help educate B.C.'s medical community about general primary care for trans people and their unique health care needs.

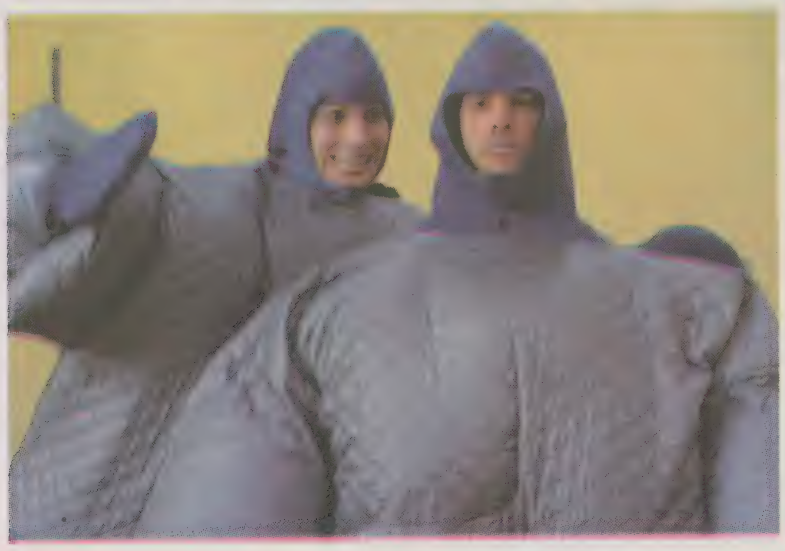
Access to basic health care in B.C. for trans people is less stellar. According to the Vancouver Island Health Authority, 454 GP physicians are currently working in Victoria. Of those, the Transgender Health Program lists only one GP in Victoria as trans-friendly. Of the almost 6,000 GPs in the province, 30 are listed as trans-friendly and about a third of those are in Vancouver.

Unlike Ontario, B.C.'s Medical Service Plan (MSP) does cover Sex Reassignment Surgery. Eligibility for the surgery, if covered by MSP, involves the same two-year real-life test required by Ontario's Gender Identity Disorder clinic. Patients must be deemed as emotionally and psychologically stable by "a team of professionals" so that a delay in surgery would not be a crisis. Two psychiatrists also have to agree that, after the real-life test, the person is appropriate for surgery.

For male-to-female SRS surgery, B.C.'s MSP covers both the removal of male genitalia and the creation of female genitalia. However, MSP covers only the removal of female genitalia for female-to-male SRS surgery.

Currently, SRS surgery is unavailable here. The Transgender Health Program is currently reviewing its requirements for funded SRS, which do not follow the Standards of Care established by the World Professional Association For Transgender Health, Inc., an international organization dedicated to gender identity disorders.

VICTORIA INDEPENDENT FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL | DANIEL O'CONNOR, *STORE* AND *ACTS OF IMAGINATION*



Face and embrace low budget

by Jessica Smith

Those laurel leaves on DVD cases in the video store usually signify that the film inside is mature and artistic and that it has been selected to participate in one of the many festivals around the world. One hundred and forty laurel-garland-quality films will be showing in this year's Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival (VIFVF) from Feb. 2 to 11.

VIFVF received 1,200 film submissions this year. The films come from around the world and vary in length from a few minutes to about an hour and a half. One thing all the films have in common is they are independent.

Daniel O'Connor, a Torontonian filmmaker, has a feature-length comedy in this year's festival, had a short in last year's festival and will be a speaker on two panels.

When asked what it means to be accepted to participate in a film festival, he says simply, "I don't know what the numbers are for Victoria, but what it means when you're invited to a festival is that your film stands out above all the others that have been submitted."

Independence usually means a low budget. O'Connor says for experienced filmmakers, thrift is just part of the process.

"Well, you face it, and then you really embrace it, because it calls on you to be even more creative. It calls on you to be more creative in the producing—how you find your location and how you make your location stand for three or four places," he says. "Granted, we'd all like to have name stars and more time to make the movies, but most people I work with on indie projects are used to working fast and quick and dirty, but still coming back with great results."

Canada has some funding options for independent filmmakers, but government grants can be hard to get. O'Connor was denied funding from Telefilm Canada for his film *Run Robot Run*.

"You know, you can see the kind of films they support at festivals," he says. "My comedy, I like to think, is there for a broad audience, and some of the films that Telefilm supports seem to be more Canadian, or maybe more art films. You can guess at the reason, but I haven't received any funding."

There will be more dramas than comedies at VIFVF, and O'Connor points out that few comedies have won at the Academy Awards.

"People who study filmmaking seem to think that serious movies should be taken more seriously," he says. He believes film festivals tend to have more dramas because they like to present "serious work by serious auteurs."

However, being selected for VIFVF is good for O'Connor and his comedy.

"One of the goals for any filmmaker, especially if you've just made your first feature, is to get a bit of profile for your movie, because you're trying to attract distributors and an audience. The festival is probably the best way to do that," he says, but points out that it's hard to get any exposure without supporting your film and attending the festival in person.

The festival has a lot to offer filmgoers as well. Along with 140 movies, there will be speakers, musical acts and social events. The best part of the film festival, according to O'Connor, is the chance to discover filmmakers you've never seen before they become famous.

The junk we keep and history that haunt us

Reviews of two B.C. films from the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival

by Jessica Smith

The Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival has some intriguing films. You can find synopses of all of the films and a schedule of events online.

Store
Directed by Cami J. Kidder

The premise doesn't sound promising—a documentary about what people keep in self-storage warehouses and why. Sure, the voyeuristic thrill of snooping will entertain me for a while, but could I enjoy a whole hour and a half of watching people show me their junk?

For the most part, I could. The beauty of *Store* is the strange Americans who talk about what they keep in self-storage lockers and why. It turns out that we actually are more interesting than what we own.

One guy tells a story about trying to move a queen-sized sofa-bed up a winding set of stairs with the help of five of his friends: "Like six monkeys tryin' ta fuck a football," he says.

When talking about their excess baggage, many of the interviewees became emotional. Turns out people lease storage lockers when a member of their family dies, when they get divorced or when they lose their jobs. Many of the lockers contained ashes and urns and, in one locker, somebody left a chopped up body in a recycling bin.

One woman has all of her mother's old things in storage and can't part with them. "When she passed away, I noticed there was more of her in her stuff than in her," she says, summing up one answer to the question that threads the movie together—how much of us is in our things, and are our things a part of who we are?

Everyone interviewed had an answer. A counsellor for people with collecting and hoarding pathologies has one answer; some of the hoarders and collectors have a different one. Intelligent cuts between speakers provide the subtle humour that makes the documentary worth watching. Some of the speakers are gently mocked by the cutting and pasting, but everyone is presented in a way that has respect for their differences and storage habits.

An hour and a half is a long time to watch people talk about their things, and the movie could have moved quicker in the second half. After about 40 minutes, hearing people talk about how attached they are to possessions they rarely, if ever, use is a little nauseating.

Still, it is those people that make this movie work. *Store* is based on the idea that reality and real people are stranger, funnier, more tragic and more interesting than fiction.

Acts of Imagination
Directed by Carolyn Combs

History books tell slanted half-truths. Memories can be corrupted or made of lies and slander, and they die with the bodies they belong to—so maybe the truest history is an act of imagination.

This idea is the credo of Katya, a Ukrainian immigrant to Vancouver, in *Acts of Imagination*.

She can't get the fantasies of the people she believes were involved in the deaths of her parents out of her mind.

She talks to them more than she talks to anyone in Canada and recreates the circumstances of her mother's murder.

The spectre that haunts her brother is poverty. Feeling tied down by obligation to his unstable sister and having lost his job puts pressure on his relationship with his new girlfriend.

He says he wants the freedom of a ride in a stolen sports car but he finds himself locked in a system of obstacles to the life he imagines is Canadian.

The acting is professional and powerful. The brother and sister have a chemistry that makes it hard to tell to tell at first if they're sleeping together or if they're siblings.

All four main actors keep up a high level of emotional intensity throughout the film but never seem to be aware that they're acting—every breakdown and every giggle seems authentic.

Domestic scenes and Vancouver's Fraser River are captured beautifully in long shots that reward the viewers' patience.

The intensity of the film, and its darkness and hopelessness, will make it unappealing to anyone who wants to be entertained. *Acts of Imagination* is thoroughly depressing and so realistically dismal that those feelings can be hard to shake off when the film is over.

PROVIDED IMAGE

Store examines what we keep under lock and key.

PROVIDED IMAGE

Stephanie Hayes as Katya and Billy Marchenski as Jaroslaw.

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Going for Baroque

by Kim Armstrong

The 17th century has come to Moss Street. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is examining the tumultuous and controversial era known as the Baroque period with the exhibits "Baroque Masterworks from the National Gallery of Canada," "Misshapen Pearl: The Baroque Era" and "Peculiar Culture: The Contemporary Baroque."

Portuguese for "misshapen pearl," the term baroque was originally used as a less than complimentary critique of art. Stretching roughly from the late 1500s to the mid-1700s, the Baroque period took place during a time of political and religious upheaval in Europe. Catholicism was under threat from the emerging Protestant movement, which sought to cut out the intermediaries, namely the saints of the Catholic Church, and create a direct relationship between the congregation and God.

Sheila Bradley, one of the gallery's exhibit tour guides, said that the theme of Baroque art is the display of one's power. If you are the Catholic Church, your power lies in religion and the inspiration of the stories of the saints. If you are a more secular merchant, in the port cities of the European coast, you want to display your success in trade and personal wealth. The paintings and indeed the artists of the Baroque era are well known.

"Baroque Masterworks from the National Gallery of Canada" gives gallery patrons a chance to experience first-hand 12 paintings by Baroque masters. On display are Vouet's "The Fortune Teller," which depicts a gypsy having her pocket picked by the accomplices of the lady whose palm she is reading; Rembrandt's "A Woman at her Toilet," whose sumptuous gown and voluminous sleeves seem to float above the canvas; and Poussin's "A Woman Washing her Feet," which, in all probability, depicts one of the stories in the life of Hercules. Due to the age and value of the paintings, they rarely travel, and the opportunity to see them in person is truly unique.

"Misshapen Pearl: The Baroque Era" moves beyond only canvas to include examples of Baroque ceramics which were very valuable even in their time, Baroque fashions and elaborate and detailed Baroque furniture and tapestries. Interactive screens give viewers an overview of Baroque architecture, music and science; it was also during this period that opera was born.

The final exhibit is somewhat different. "Peculiar Culture: The Contemporary Baroque" draws what seems like a tenuous link between Baroque and modern art. UVic visual arts professor Luanne Martineau's handmade felt sculptures, which look somewhat like dryer lint regurgitated by a house cat yet are strangely compelling, compete for gallery space with Londoners Jake and Dinos Chapmans' creative renderings of Francisco de Goya's "Disasters of War" etchings.

Curator of Contemporary Art Lisa Baldissera's opinion of these works is posted on the gallery wall. "Like the Baroque artists, [Martineau and the Chapmans] combine beauty, perversity, humour and horror to engage the audience with their elaborate executions."

While Martineau's work is quite fascinating for what seem like multi-coloured piles of fluff adorned with random toes, the work of the Chapmans seems to break the boundaries of taste for no reason other than to say, look at my drawing of genitalia hanging in an art gallery.

Despite Baldissera's claim that "their subversive wit and black humour is paired with an elegant and meticulous craftsmanship," the line work is sloppy when compared with the older etchings displayed in the other exhibits. Held up to de Goya's provocative collection of images from Napoleon's Peninsular War, they seem childish and melodramatic. As the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and de Goya's work is far from in need of embellishment.

Overall, though, the exhibitions are worth seeing, especially if you time your visit to coincide with one of the planned tours. The relics of this turbulent period in European art history are more than worthy of attention.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA PHOTO

Paulus Bor, "The Annunciation of the Virgin's Death."

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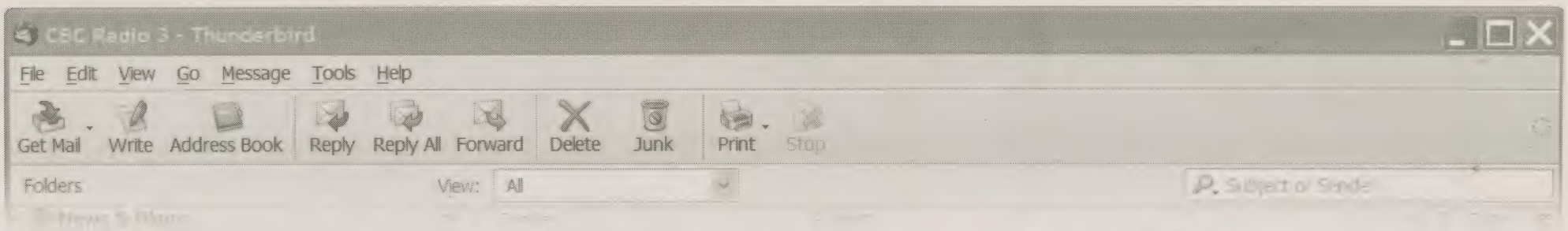

Never enough arts news on the Net

by Steve Carey

In 1999, I missed seeing the reunion of my favourite band at a nightclub in Seattle. True, I was broke, underage and couldn't get to the States, but at 16, I was super pissed that the show announcement hadn't been on the radio until after Bauhaus had broken up again.

The only place to hear about concert listings outside Victoria was through MuchMusic, which largely ignored Western Canada and didn't cover the States. There were always the listings pages in *Monday Magazine* and the pill-bug-sized event calendar in the *Times Colonist*, which mostly covered classical music and local theatre.

A solid development in '99 happened when Livevictoria.com, a bulletin board website for Victoria bands to promote their shows, popped up. At least then we knew what was going on around town, in addition to fiddle concerts and lederhosen choir shows.

I was interested in knowing what was going on with my favourite artists, where the big festivals were going down and what was going on with the Everlast versus Eminem fight, but I could only get it from buying a magazine or watching MuchMusic.

But there is so much arts news online now that you'd be hard-pressed not to know what's going on.

One way of keeping up-to-the minute with arts news and hard news is to have it delivered to your inbox through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. They can be associated with anything: blogs, YouTube videos, even newspapers. Using them is a way to know when the next "Spiders on Drugs" or "Diet Coke and Mentos Experiment" has been posted.

Music magazines offer a lot of their content through RSS feeds.

Websites such as CBC Radio 3, Pitchforkmedia, *Rolling Stone* and *Spin* all report online, weekly, daily or even hourly.

The New York Times has specialized feeds depending on your interests, including arts, business and world news.

RSS feeds are anything from a single line story to mini web pages with video.

News-reading programs check the site, and then it's up to you sort through only the information you want, based on subject lines and a summary. This saves you time and keeps you up to date.

I tried signing up for some popular arts news feeds (CBC Radio 3, Pitchfork, *Rolling Stone*, *Rolling Stone*'s Beyoncé Knowles feed, *Spin*) for a little over three weeks and encountered some drawbacks to Internet news delivery.

Taking two days off from feed reading left my inbox with more than 1,225 unread stories.

Specialized feeds, such as *Rolling Stone*'s one about Beyoncé, are updated far less often—not that I'm upset that I don't know what the R&B star is doing at this very moment.

One of the best stand-alone arts sites is CBC Radio 3, a Canadian content website and online radio station that pulls songs directly from the New Music Canada archives. The archives are populated by songs uploaded by artists themselves, such as those from Victoria acts Jon Middleton and Current Swell, and Canadian darlings The Arcade Fire and Buck 65.

The New York Times has in-depth profiles and features, and only the summaries are delivered, in contrast to CBC Radio 3's full-page approach. This lets you skip past the useless stuff (most of it) to the useful such as *Rolling Stone*'s "Marilyn Manson has a mid-life crisis and should have a ponytail" story. That is so awesome, it hurts.

Pitchfork was the most frustrating feed. The links to stories frequently didn't work and were delivered multiple times, so it defeated the purpose of sorting through them. *Spin* provided fewer feeds that piqued my interest more often but had working links to show me more than just the headline and summary.

Getting any news off the web is still frightening. Unknown or random update times, too many sites to check, slanted opinions from different news outlets and way too much information—these are all hurdles.

I finally got to see Bauhaus two years ago, when they reunited yet again. Every click, every hum, every whirr was as raw and untamed and incredible as I though it would be, but, I saw no interviews with them in the press and no in-depth information about the show online. Despite the volumes of news on the Internet, I had to find out about the show from a friend from high school who was on a pre-sale mailing list for another band.

Even with all of the news online, great artists can still fall through the cracks.

Really Simple Syndication

The major benefit of RSS feeds is that they allow you to filter information by subject line and summary, the same as you would when flipping through a newspaper. You can disregard stories that aren't of interest and get the gist of it quickly or continue further into the story or listing for more detailed information.

How you use it

The first step is to download and install a program to read the feed—news reader or aggregator. A Google search for "rss aggregator" will return with many, and new ones are appearing all the time.

I'm currently using an e-mail client with RSS-feed-reading ability—Mozilla Thunderbird. This works well for home, but for places where you can't install a permanent e-mail/news reader, a web-based aggregator such as Bloglines can be used so you can log in and read anywhere. Both of these programs are free.

Once you've got a program, it's time to figure out what to read. RSS feeds are usually characterized by a little orange "RSS" or "XML" icon. You can use those to set up your aggregator to check those sites—every 15 minutes if you're a junkie, or every four hours if it's not all that important to you.

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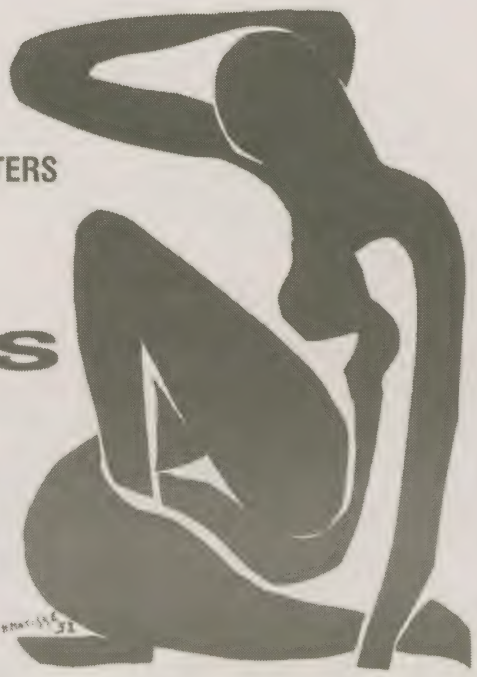

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Subtle's potency

Band creates a mélange of different styles and hits it big across the country

by Kevin Ehman

The first band to truly embody the post-everything genre, Subtle is a blend of hip hop, electronic, punk and prog. They create a soundscape that is dark and inaccessible, at times hauntingly beautiful and always undeniably their own.

When it comes to bands that fall into the category "you either get it or you don't," Subtle would most likely rank number one.

Subtle's 2006 release *For Hero: For Fool* was much played on our own CFUV and other college radio stations across the continent and was highly praised by all well-versed music critics.

The live five-piece ensemble rolled into town for the first date of their cross-country tour with fellow California act Pigeon John on Thursday, Jan. 25, and I managed to catch up with lead vocalist Adam Drucker (a.k.a. Dose One), programmer/producer Jeffrey Logan (a.k.a. Jel) and live drummer/vocalist Jordan Dalrymple following their sound check.

When asked whether the plentiful critical acclaim in 2006 actually means anything to the band, Drucker responded, "I love it when due attention is paid—like when websites extrapolate on the poems and the music construction—because for so many years it was 'nasal rap-rock'.... I always wanted critics to expound on the music and not encapsulate and round it down."

"Due attention" seems to be the biggest positive aspect of the info-overloaded Internet—websites devoted to music criticism and analysis such as Pitchfork and Cokemachineglow are able to provide a level of insight never before available in traditional publications such as *Rolling Stone* or *Spin*, which generally tend to cater to a lowest common denominator.

Subtle is currently on the U.K. indie label Lex and also has a major label deal with EMI in Europe.

Drucker said that other than having money to throw at projects if they so choose, the advantage of being on major labels is distribution.

"All over Europe, HMV is like, 'Oh yes, we will take 200 copies and put it on a shelf in the corner,'" he said. "Plus they paid for the studio time—something that can be painful to fund on our own."

When it comes to paying their way as travelling musicians, the band has had their pockets emptied on numerous occasions, both literally and emotionally.

In February 2005, an accident while driving their tour van paralyzed keyboard player Dax Pierson from the chest down.

Then, while on tour in Barcelona last November, their van was broken into while the group was lounging on the beach, resulting in a theft of $15,000 worth of equipment, including laptops holding demos and Drucker's poems and lyrics.

The theft "hasn't affected the music or momentum of the band but [is] more of a morale thing," said Drucker. "It was a blow, and we have paid every due. There are not too many due columns that we haven't filled by this point ... aside from being stabbed or shot or something ridiculous that comes with a rare sort of music. We have really been through all the nightmares and daymares by this point. Motherfuckers got to sleep and so people will rob you at the hotel, outside the venue, wherever."

Drucker said Logan pointed out that being on tour means you're "completely vulnerable" for many days.

At the show on Thursday, after Pigeon John and his amazing drummer and keyboard/guitar player opened the show with an engaging and vigour-filled set that got the crowed riled, Subtle took to the stage.

Drucker emerged wearing a mask and a white tuxedo stained with (hopefully fake) blood and a host of props that ranged from a painted skull to a towel full of plastic forks that he threw into the crowd during "A Tale of Apes 1"—one of the few truly up-tempo tracks from *For Hero: For Fool*.

As the band worked through its set, you could see the crowd engage in the band's vision. Be it Drucker's incredibly expressive stage presence or the hypnotic moan of band member Alexander Kort's cello, Subtle is a total live experience. Some of the audience danced, some swayed, some stood transfixed. I fell into the latter category for most of the show.

During the pre-show interview, I asked the band if a mainstream audience would ever be ready to embrace an act like Subtle.

"I think the hard thing with our band is that you can't just take one piece and be satisfied with that," said Dalrymple. "You have to take the whole thing or nothing."

Drucker added, "I think our music has total pop moments and is rewarding in that regard, but that's not all that is there, and it's not a one-trick pony. Our music is really potent at the centre. How many glass ceilings we are going to break through really depends on people's propensity to indulge in and enjoy music."

KEVIN EHMAN PHOTO

Subtle's Adam Drucker takes the stage in sweat and a blood-stained white tuxedo.

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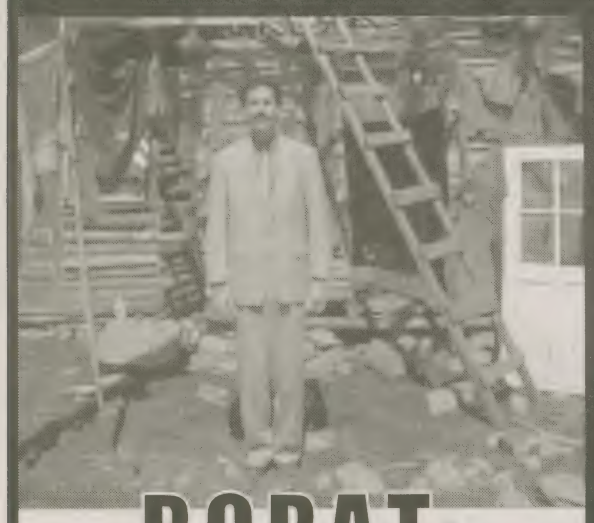

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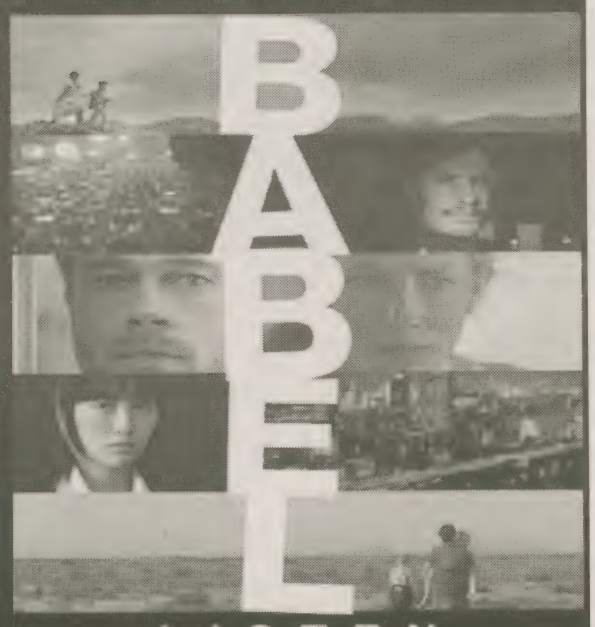

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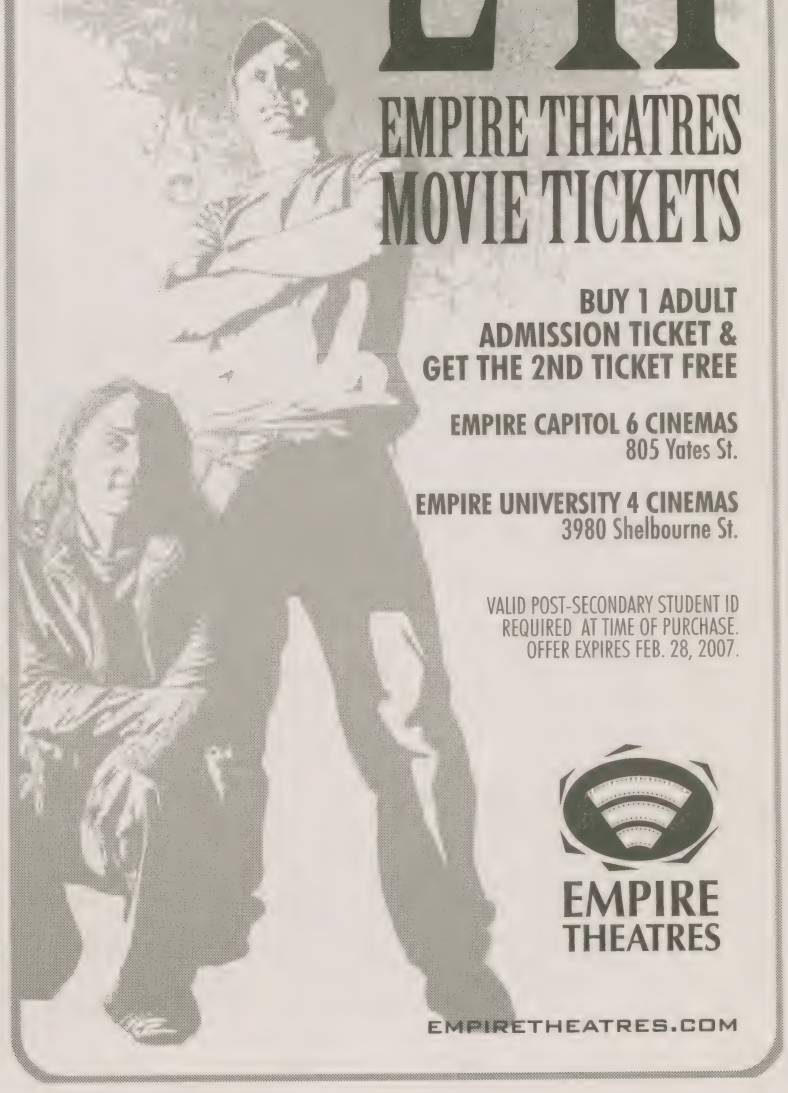

PROVIDED PHOTO

UVic grad Charles Ross does *Star Wars* with a frenetic energy.

Light satire of light sabres

by Hilary Agro

A tall man in black coveralls walks onto the black, empty stage, his head down. The audience is silent but ripe with anticipation. We can't imagine how he's possibly going to open the show, let alone how he's going to pull it off.

The entire audience jumps as we hear the familiar trumpets of the Twentieth Century Fox theatrical theme music being created by the man's voice. A few giggles escape here and there from the crowd, but most people still aren't sure what to make of him. Eventually, though, he will have us in hysterics.

We're in the Phoenix Theatre on campus, watching UVic graduate Charles Ross's internationally renowned *One-Man Star Wars Trilogy*. Ross is taking a break from his busy performance schedule for the Department of Theatre's yearly Spotlight on Alumni. Directed by fellow grad TJ Dawe, the show has been performed by Ross to increasingly larger audiences during its six-year run, such as on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and off-Broadway. It is showing at UVic until Feb. 3, before Ross heads out to Australia to perform for his loyal geek fans down under.

There's really no way to describe the premise of the *One-Man Star Wars Trilogy* better than the title itself does. It's a solid hour of a very fast and very accurate re-enactment of the original three films. Taking but two 10-second water breaks during the whole hour, Ross shows us a herd of Stormtroopers couldn't break his stride. The frenetic energy Ross brings to the performance could easily rival that of a full cast. He sings the John Williams score! He does the stunts! He is the Millennium Falcon and the Death Star all at once! Even the epic flying prologues don't escape his ability to summarize with satirical wit.

Because, really, the core of the show is light satire. Light in that someone as dedicated to *Star Wars* as Ross couldn't possibly poke fun at the films with anything more than in-jokes about the consistency errors and the vaguely incestuous undertones between Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker.

But the jokes he does, he does with perfect comic timing. For instance: "Leia.... Do you remember your mother?"

"...Natalie Portman?"

For the sake of journalistic honesty, I should probably mention something. It was about 15 minutes into the show when I finally realized why I wasn't enjoying it quite as much as every other person in the audience clearly was. I haven't seen the damn movies.

Well, I saw parts of *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, but I was probably about eight years old, and unfortunately at that age, my childish obsessions were already fully dominated by the Ninja Turtles.

I looked down at the Merry and Pippin shirt I was wearing and realized that his lesser-known *One-Man Lord of the Rings* would have been far more appropriate for me. I could tell that there were hundreds of in-jokes flying over my head (complete with spaceship sound effects).

So if you're like me and have apparently been living in a cave since 1977, be prepared to be a little confused.

However, if Ross can entertain me, a *Star Wars* philistine, he can entertain anyone.

I do remember two characters particularly clearly, however, and I waited eagerly to see Ross's take on them. Jabba the Hutt and Yoda are classic favourites with any fan, and Ross didn't deny them their turns in the spotlight. He put me in stitches with Jabba. Somehow, he made the simple act of using his forearms as Jabba's mouth absolutely hilarious.

Yoda, unfortunately, left something to be desired. We all know that the best part of Yoda is his wise yet Fozzy-like dialogue. But without the physical manifestation of the character, I wouldn't have even recognized that it was Yoda. To be fair, that voice is damned hard to impersonate.

Though Ross's C-3PO, R2-D2 and Chewy were fantastic, I don't think anyone can do Yoda but the original actor, Frank Oz. Luckily, Ross saved the character by having Yoda's unique grammatical stylings down pat.

The show wasn't perfect. It could benefit from more humour and fewer spaceships and sound effects. There are only so many light sabre zings one can handle before becoming a bit bored. Nevertheless, I am now determined to watch the movies in their entirety, just so I can go back and fully enjoy Ross's amazingly entertaining theatrical acrobatics.

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29TH

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. MENOMENA
   Friend and Foe (Barsuk)
2. OF MONTREAL
   Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer? (Polyvinyl)
3. JULIE DOIRON *
   Woke Myself Up (Endearing)
4. THE SHINS
   Wincing The Night Away (Sub Pop)
5. DJ CO-OP *
   Co-Operation, Volume 3 (Independent)
6. DEERHOOF
   Friend Opportunity (Kill Rock Stars)
7. BEIRUT
   Lon Gisland EP (Ba Da Bing!)
8. VARIOUS
   8-Bit Operators: The Music Of Kraftwerk (Astralwerks)
9. GHOST
   In Stormy Nights (Drag City)
10. HELLA
    There's No 666 In Outer Space (Ipecac)

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REVIEWS | *SMOKIN' ACES* AND RATATAT

PROVIDED IMAGE

Alicia Keys gets too much screen time in *Smokin' Aces*.

Fan boy Carnahan's killer flick

by Josh Szczepanowski

Take a bunch of hit men, their target, the guy who hired them, a slew of freelance assassins and a series of plot devices that puts them all in a hotel together and you have *Smokin' Aces*. Mayhem ensues.

The main problem with this quaint old chestnut of a story is that writer/director Joe Carnahan has put together a fan boy flick—a movie made by someone who loves and wants to be like Quentin Tarantino. That's not to say Tarantino isn't a fan boy himself—he is—but Carnahan should be studying source material, not making slick, overproduced copies of copies. Watching this movie was like talking to someone who loves Coldplay but has never heard of U2.

Smokin' Aces does have some strong points—it's fully loaded with some seriously strong acting. Andy Garcia, as usual, commands the scene every second he's onscreen, although one has to wonder if he's being a little typecasted. Ryan Reynolds is excellent, and even Ben Affleck is mildly watchable. Jason Bateman is the big winner, with snappy lines and great delivery—without a doubt, he steals the entire movie.

The bullets aren't the only thing chewing up the scenery, though, and unfortunately, some of the weaker actors get too much screen time. A lot of the movie focused on Alicia Keys' character, and the German hit men were almost unbearable.

But you can expect to get your money's worth if you love cartoony explosions and spouting blood. The sequences were well put together and had some interesting ideas: assassins with fold-out shanks in their arms, a gunfight with a .50 calibre, machetes, a chainsaw and more blood than the Red Cross.

So, even though there's a lot to admire here, the problem is this: *Smokin' Aces* is a huge rip-off. We've seen everything in it over a decade ago. There isn't a new idea within 100 kilometres of this picture.

It's no secret that Hollywood is full of rip-offs these days. Hell, ever since they started digging up old movies to put Steve Martin in, things have been going downhill faster than Britney Spears. But not since *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* has a film had so much potential to be right and turned out so terribly wrong.

Smokin' Aces has it all—witty banter that tries too hard to be funny, gigantic explosions, nudity for pure shock value, trash-talking gangsta girls, the Mafia, FBI turncoats, big guns, bigger guns, obscenely huge guns, *Mission: Impossible* face masks, fast cars, freeze-frame character introductions with subtitles, a plot so full of twists and turns you'll get seasick and at least one reference to Batman. Basically, it's got everything that makes movies such as *Pulp Fiction* incredible but without a talented director behind the wheel and without something new to say.

Smokin' Aces is shot so schizophrenically it feels like a music video. Add stilted line delivery and stopping the flow of action for what seems like a million subtitled character introductions and you're in for a tough first hour. In the second hour, Carnahan suddenly thinks he's making a serious film. The music gets extremely melodramatic, tears flow from every eye and the colours become dark and moody. It begins to seem a lot like watching *Heat*. Then, the film feels right for about 10 minutes, but Carnahan goes too far and drops the ball with an ending both laughable and anticlimactic.

No one wants to come out of a big thrill-ride of a movie thinking it was just okay. Is *Smokin' Aces* a bad film? No, not really. But it's not a good film either. It's almost good; it could have been good, and that's what kills it in the end.

Singing to lyricless music

RATATAT
Classics
XL Recordings

by Maria Konstantinov

RATATAT is not only a character from Pokémon—it is also the combined electronic forces of Evan Mast and Mike Stroud, two New York City friends who came together at Skidmore College and decided to create ridiculously captivating tunes. *Classics* is RATATAT's second studio release, and it reflects its name in that it has become a classic and has greatly surpassed their first release, *Seventeen Years*.

The album starts out with the clicking and snapping of sticks in "Gettysburg" and continues into rhythmic pulses, thumps and guitar slides echoed with bells and synths. RATATAT gets you gyrating and bopping your shoulders in spiral motions along to the music.

When driving around, I often find myself loudly singing along to songs and begging my friends to join in with me—but the thing is, RATATAT's music contains absolutely no vocals.

I didn't know what to do with myself when I first listened to *Classics*. I barricaded myself in my room for hours, lying in a heap on the ground beside my bed, blasting "Wildcat" on repeat and making clawing motions at the air whenever the panther roared. I'd only stand up to robot my way around my room to "Tacobel Canon" and its sliding grasshopper-like riffs and summery melodic solo.

Once in a while an album will come along that forces your mind to desperately try to comprehend how something so fantastic has been produced. If you love funky hip-hop spinoff beats mixed with swooshing electronic melodies and crackling notes, then this album has come along, and it is *Classics*. Listen to it. I guarantee that you will love it. If you don't, you can come find me and I will attempt to understand what is wrong with you.

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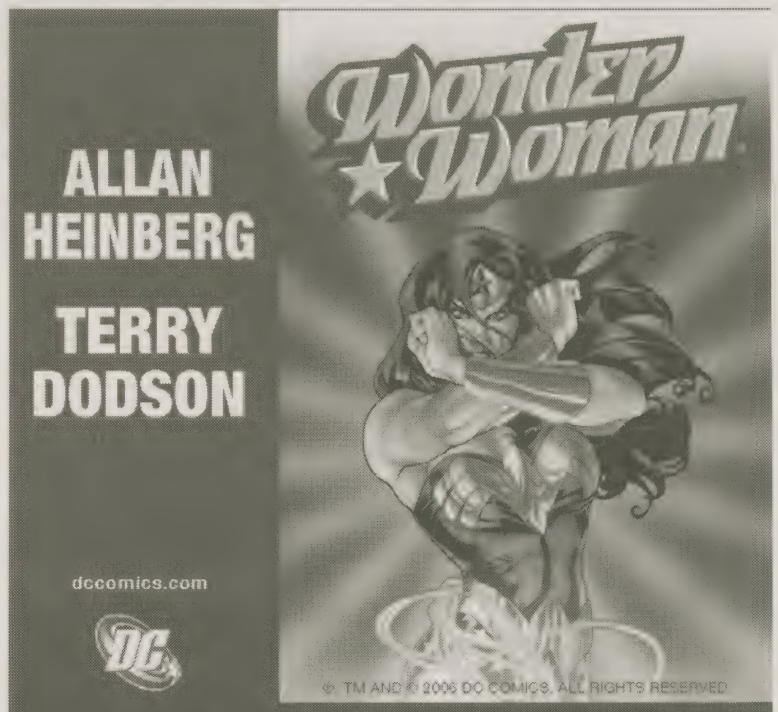

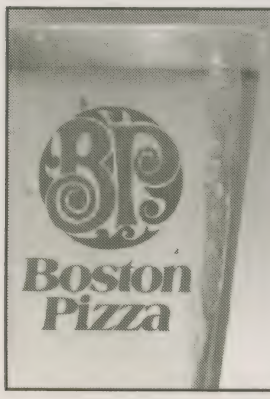

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SPORTS OPINION

Hockey in United States a failure

by Seth Cooper

Gary Bettman is ruining hockey.

It wasn't the neutral zone trap. It wasn't the clutch-and-grab style of play. And it's not even the schedule that forces some teams to travel twice as much as their divisional rivals.

Rather, it's the NHL commissioner's bumbling leadership over the past 14 years coupled with a misguided experiment: trying to popularize hockey in the United States.

And with last week's NHL All-Star Game garnering a miserable 672,948 American television viewers, it should be painfully clear that the experiment has failed.

The all-star game returned from a two-year hiatus, showcasing a bumper crop of new NHL superstars such as Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin, each starter chosen by the fans to represent the elite amongst the bloated 30-team league. This was the new NHL: younger, faster, more exciting and complete with flashy new form-fitting waterproof uniforms for performance-conscious players and fans alike.

But nobody cared. The game had a whopping 76 per cent decrease in ratings from the last all-star game in 2004, prior to the devastating lockout that wiped out an entire season.

During Bettman's troubled tenure, fans have endured glowing pucks, four team bankruptcies, three team relocations, questionable expansion and fumbled television contracts. Ironically, his single Pyrrhic victory—establishing a new collective bargaining agreement—cost the league an entire season and more fans than anyone might have imagined until now.

Even the Pittsburgh Penguins, with perhaps the most exciting roster in the league, face an uncertain future in a stagnant American hockey market.

And although hockey in Canada will always have an audience (CBC ratings for the 2007 all-star game were six per cent higher than the 2004 match), the six Canadian teams and their supporters will continue to suffer through Bettman's embarrassing quest for hockey celebrity in the United States.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Gary Bettman.

Recently, under Bettman's leadership, the league could not agree to change the unbalanced schedule, further punishing the smaller market teams in the Western Conference.

Canadian fans should expect more of the same. Hockey hotbeds such as Winnipeg and Hamilton will continue to cheer for minor-league teams while Pittsburgh contemplates the bottom line of an NHL team in Kansas City or Las Vegas. Cities such as Vancouver and Edmonton will run out of beer as their rabid fans celebrate hockey culture in the streets, while the Stanley Cup Finals will occupy page seven of the sports section in the newspapers of "small-market" hockey towns in America.

So here's hoping that David Beckham and his flashy haircuts do for soccer what Gary Bettman has been trying to do for the last 14 years for hockey and make soccer the next established sport in the American market. Maybe then the NHL will re-evaluate their priorities.

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Vikes win Friday night blowout

by Hilary Agro

Nothing spectacular marked the Jan. 26 men's basketball game against the Simon Fraser University Clan. It was just a good old-fashioned ass whomping.

The Vikes, ranked eighth in Canada, finished the game with 30 points on the Clan and a final score of 79-49. With the much narrower 68-65 win against SFU the following night, the Vikes are now second in the Pacific Division. With a 16-3 record, they are one win behind division leader UBC.

The first half of the Jan. 26 game saw quite a bit of back-and-forth across the court, but only one of the teams was able to make much of it. Ten minutes in, Vike Brandon Ellis threw a three-pointer to give his team triple the Clan's score at 18-6. SFU picked up the pace, but a beautiful pass from Cyril Indome resulted in a Tyler Hass slam dunk, wild cheers from the crowd and a 22-12 score.

The Vikes gained 14 points in the last four minutes of the half to finish with a flourish. With seconds to go, UVic centre Rob Kinnear finished a breakaway layup to bring the score to 39-19 at half.

The second half started with lots of fouls by both teams—seven in the first three minutes. Things calmed down, however, and two minutes later both teams had brought up their score. But it didn't make much of a difference for SFU's comeback hopes, as the Vikes led 61-33 halfway through the period.

Despite their considerable lead, the Vikes continued to give their all in the final minutes of the game. Indome hit a couple threes to bring the score to 79-47, with the Clan then getting in one last basket before the buzzer.

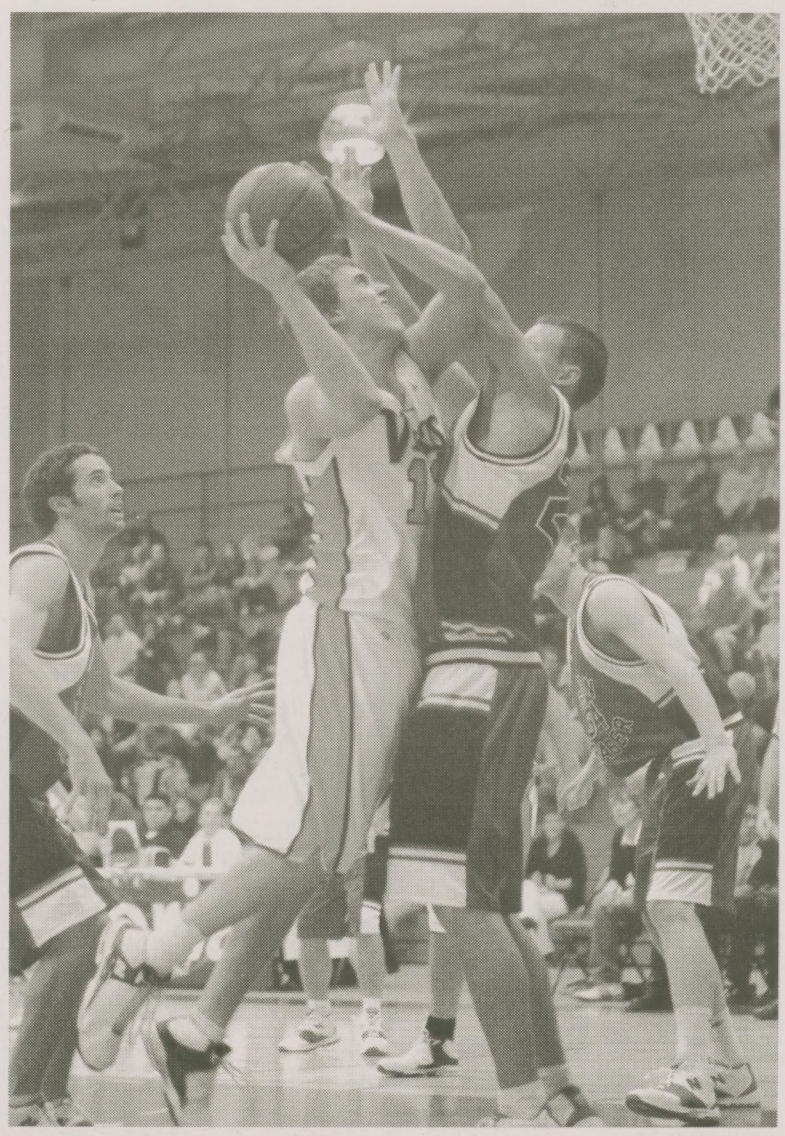
Indome, Jacob Doerksen and Mitch Gudgeon led the Vikes with 13 points each.

UVic wins on buzzer-beater

The next night, SFU regrouped to make the Vikes' victory a far more difficult one. With SFU's stronger offence and more aggressive rebounding, the Clan was leading 35-30 at halftime. It didn't help that Steve Moore went down early in the game with a shoulder injury.

But the Vikes pulled through with an incredible play at the buzzer. Tied at 65 with one second to go, the crowd went insane as they watched a swift pass from Whyte to Doerksen end in an impossible three-pointer and a game-ending score of 68-65. Ellis's 23 points made him the highest scorer by far.

The team now hits the road to face the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on Feb. 2 and the University of Alberta Golden Bears on Feb. 3.



WILLIE LI PHOTO

Jacob Doerksen powers his way into the paint for a shot.

UVic hockey team skates to 6-6 tie with Simon Fraser

by Gregg Whitlock, *The Peak*

BURNABY, B.C. — The unbeaten UVic hockey team took on Simon Fraser University on Jan. 26 at Bill Copeland Sports Centre in Burnaby.

It was a clash of the top two teams in the B.C. Intercollegiate Hockey League standings, and it ended in a 6-6 draw.

UVic forward Dan Birch scored less than two minutes in and added a second a couple of minutes later to take an early lead. SFU played sloppily early, which seemed to be a simple case of home-crowd stage fright.

SFU had multiple scoring chances but was unable to finish. Chris McKague added a third goal for UVic with 35 seconds left in the period to send SFU to the dressing room down 3-0.

The intermission gave SFU a chance to regroup. They found their first goal of the game 45 seconds in from Josh Macknee and a second goal a minute later from Jason Pagliaro.

But their comeback hopes were short-lived—UVic captain Drew Davis scored two minutes later to make it 4-2.

At times SFU seemed to do better on the penalty kill than at full strength. Pagliaro scored his second goal of the game on the penalty kill, bringing SFU within one again.

But, like a back-and-forth game of tennis, UVic notched their fifth goal off a Rudi Van Heerden shot with four minutes left in the period. Macknee answered right back with a goal for SFU, making it 5-4 for UVic heading into the dressing room.

After two periods, UVic outshot SFU 26-18.

Third period action opened with both teams fighting for momentum. SFU put in a very strong effort in the UVic defensive zone three minutes in to tie the game at five.

UVic's opponents looked poised to take the lead during a power play with multiple opportunities, but UVic goalie Gordon Neave provided solid netminding to keep the game tied.

But with 13 minutes left, Neave left the game with a knee injury. After that, it only took a minute for SFU's John Miller to score on backup Tim Manuel, giving the home team their first lead of the game.

SFU defended well until UVic forward Nathan Murray scored to tie the game with five minutes left. Despite a valiant power play effort by SFU toward the end of the game, the battle ended in a tie.

"It's tough when you get down 3-0, but the guys battled back hard," said SFU team co-founder Jeff Dubois. "To get up 6-5 with these guys is quite an accomplishment."

UVic Scoreboard!

Women's Basketball

Jan. 27 SFU 80 UVic 57
Jan. 26 SFU 66 UVic 58

Men's Basketball

Jan. 27 UVic 68 SFU 65
Jan. 26 UVic 79 SFU 49

Men's Field Hockey

Jan. 27 UVic 3 Burnaby 1
Jan. 27 Vancouver 8 UVic 1

Men's Ice Hockey

Jan. 27 UVic 2 TWU 1
Jan. 26 UVic 6 SFU 6

Women's Rugby

Jan. 27 UVic 34 James Bay 8

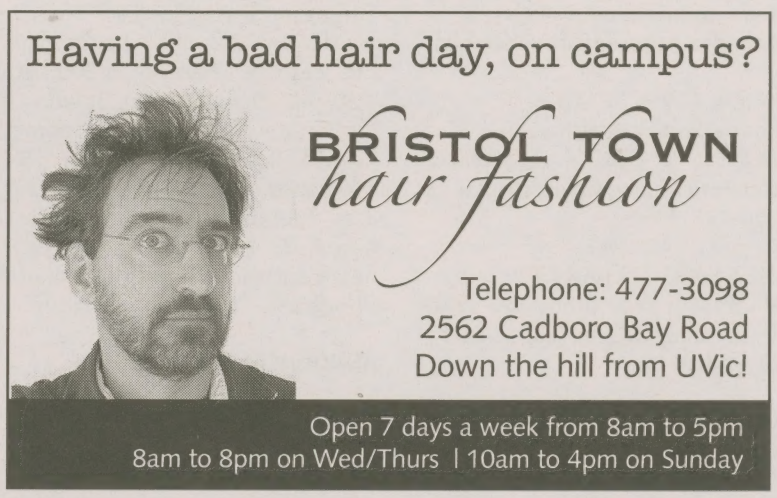
Men's Rugby

Jan. 27 UVic 34 James Bay 8

JOCK TALK

"There's a saying that soccer is a gentleman's game played by hooligans, and rugby is a hooligan's game played by gentlemen."

- Burnaby rugby player Adam Martin



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Players punch each other, go for beers

Rookie Ty Shannon scores try and Dave Stocton gets two in 29-5 victory

by David Karp

UVic opened their Premier League season with a dominating 29-5 win over the Burnaby Lake Rugby Club.

The game was full of raw aggression. Burnaby scored their only try early in the game while Vike Mark Farrally lay on the field clutching his left hand. He left Wallace Field shortly after with a possible sprain, his hand smothered in ice.

"Rugby's a really brutal sport," said Vikes public relations assistant Phoebe Reid, a passionate fan of the "less brutal" sport of Aussie rules football, from the sidelines.

Halfway through the second, two tackled players started punching each other on the ground. Teammates came to the rescue quickly, and for a moment it looked like there'd be a big brawl, but cooler heads prevailed.

Three minutes later, another mini-brawl ensued, with UVic's Steve Batie and Burnaby's Cory Turkington both receiving yellow cards.

A minute later, Burnaby's Mark Armstrong went on a dangerous 10-metre run in UVic territory. He ended up in the hands of Vike Mike Danskin, who literally picked Armstrong up and threw him on the ground as if he were spiking a football.

"I was able to get a shoulder in and pick him up and drop him," said Danskin, who was penalized for the tough tackle. "Tempers were high at the time between the two teams, so I thought, 'Why not?'"

And the violence didn't stop. Near the end of the match, Burnaby big man Ryan Neufeld threw punches at Vike Steve Piatik's head, attracting the attention of three other Vikes and earning Neufeld a long, lumbering walk to the sin bin with Piatik.

But that level of physical play is normal for rugby, said Vikes coach Doug Tate.

Yet as soon as the game ended, all the animosity was forgotten and a new priority emerged: going for beers.

"You're coming out for drinks after, right?" someone yelled at Burnaby coach Bill Meechan after the game. "Yeah, for an orange juice," he replied.

Drinking with your opponents is a sacred post-game ritual in this sport where tempers often run high on the field.

"That's the beauty of it," says Burnaby's Adam Martin. "You spend 80 minutes pounding each other and then you buy the other guy a beer after the game.

"I owe my guy two beers, actually. I got him pretty good a couple of times."

It's clear that the post-game brews are taken almost as seriously as the match itself.

Tate was speaking with the media after the game when his captain, an extremely concerned-looking Pat Kearney, walked across three-quarters of the field to interrupt Tate.

"I'm really sorry, Doug," he said, with genuine remorse on his face. "I can't make it to Darcy's tonight."

Tate can hardly answer a reporter's question before Meechan came over to greet him. The two had a quick chat about the match before signing game sheets. But there's one more important item.

"You're coming for a beer, right?" Tate asks Meechan.

"I think so, yeah."

"You've got the dog too, right?" said Tate, making sure that Meechan doesn't forget his canine companion. "You know where we're going—Darcy's."

And rugby players wouldn't have it any other way.

"There's a saying that soccer is a gentleman's game played by hooligans, and rugby is a hooligan's game played by gentleman," said Martin.

Because at the end of the day, it's all about having fun.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

UVic's win over Burnaby featured some tough tackling.

Classifieds maned@martlet.ca

FOR HIRE

ROOF & GUTTER INSPECTION, REPAIR, REROOFING, DEMOSSING AND POWERWASHING. Call: 380-5685.

HELP WANTED

LAW STUDENT to look up some facts. CASH payment! 727-921ph&fx. watersphot58@shaw.ca John Douglas Spillane MPA.

FEMALE FIGURE MODEL
Needed for classical drawing series by local artist. Slim figure preferred 920-8940 $40/hr.

I'm looking for a tutor for the sky. I would like to know what our Solar System is, Planets, Constellations, & some stars. Wage $12.00 an hr. or $12.50 your call. normanlewis@shaw.ca

Bell Walk for Kids for Kids Help Phone - Walk Chair. Nature of Job/Responsibilities: Recruit volunteers for walk committees, work with individual committee chairs to ensure the completion of their areas of responsibilities, chair meetings, act as a spokesperson for the walk, recruit resources as needed, monitor overall progress. Contact: sandra.harley@bc.sympatico.ca

Sunday School Coordinator: St. Paul's United Church, Sidney. PT position, 30 hours/month. Teaching experience or equivalent work experience with youth, youth ministry certificate an asset. For more information www.stpauluc.com http://www.stpauluc.com or phone 656-3213.

Adobe InDesign tutor wanted. Flexible, congenial. Ph: louis. 384-4986.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee is now hiring canvassers. If you are a dedicated individual seeking meaningful work, contact us. Call 388-9292 or apply in person at 651 Johnson St. between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

RECEIVE $30 FOR PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH!
You qualify if you are at least 19 and have worked with at least 2 counsellors. Answer 3 questionnaires about your experience. Call 853-3210 or email bedilab@uvic.ca

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GET PAID TO PARTY!!!
Book your next fundraiser at the Lucky Bar. 382-LUCK or luckybar@shaw.ca

CERTIFIED ESL TUTOR
Carol Anne. 744-1346.

Writing essays a problem? Editing a chore? Gales English Clinics offers a cure – finally! 886-4055.

Are you an entrepreneurial student determined to stay out of debt? Call 598-6552.

Read the *Martlet* every Thursday for all your important and funtime news.

ON CAMPUS

BUDDHIST MEDITATION
UVic Interfaith Chapel, Tuesdays 6:45-8 p.m. 642-7936.
www.zenwest.ca

Protect the West Coast! Two slideshows! Save Vancouver Island's Remaining Ancient Forests, presented by Ken Wu and Keep BC's Coast Oil Free, presented by Elly Knight. 3:30-5:00 pm, Friday, February 9, 2007 Hickman Building Room 116

The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in October and throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

Jung Society lecture: Judith Slimmon. "Living Like a Weasel": An Exploration into Instinctual Life. Friday, February 2, 2007 at 7:30 pm, David Strong Building, C116. Members, $10; non-members, $15; full-time students, $5. Workshop, Sat., Feb. 3, 2007. 10 a.m. Members, $115; non-members $125. At Health Point Wellness Centre at Aberdeen Hospital. Phone 388-7164 for information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARTY FROM POLE TO POLE
Friday, February 2. Doors open at 9 p.m. @ Red Jacket, 751 View St. Fundraiser for youth leadership program. $5 for tickets in advance call 884-4457 or go to Clearihue Room D228c.

LIVE IMPROV COMEDY
"Throw Us A Line Improv"
Wednesdays 8:30 Soprano's Karaoke Bar. NO COVER.

WIN great prizes by donating $10 or more online to the United Way. Check out http://unitedway.uvic.ca to learn more about how you can help those who need it most.

WISE WOMEN'S WELLNESS SESSIONS Are you interested in developing new communication skills, gaining confidence and connecting with other women? Every Tuesday 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. until April 24, Call 363-2640 for more info.

WEDNESDAYS,& FRIDAYS
Come Dancing! Join Saanich International Folk Dancers Wednesdays and Fridays, at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road at 7:30. No partner or experience needed. Instruction on Wednesdays. Drop-in $4; first visit free. Phone (250)598-6424 or (250)598-4089.

Chocolate Fest 2007 Fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Enjoy Chocolate, Games, Wine, and Beer! March 25, noon-6 p.m. Victoria Conference Centre www.chocolatefest.ca

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Food Not Bombs serves free vegan food every Sunday at Vancouver and Pandora, under the big sequioa tree. Call 383-5144 x1940 for kitchen locations

Notice to students in Education, Geography or Biology: Excellent volunteer opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. For more details e-mail Joan at: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca

Hey! Why aren't ya volunteering with Uvic Pride already? Come be our social coordinator! Or something! uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca Queers, Trans, Intersex and Allies... SUB B118

Want to help save lives? Join us and fulfill a key volunteer opportunity with Canadian Blood Services. The blood programs is looking for volunteers to support on campus blood clinics, minimal time commitment, great opportunity and lots of fun/volunteer appreciation! For more information email cbsuvic@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

1973 MGB white roadster in very good condition (has BC Collector plates). $7000 worth of work done in last 10 years, including new fuel tank, clutch, paint job, brakes, etc. $7500 OBO. Call 995-2835.

Lotsa used bikes 4 sale $100-250 ReCyclistas @ 25 Crease Ave. 418-8867.

WEEDHUSTLER.COM
You're the dealer. The hilarious boardgame that authentically represents marijuana culture. www.weedhustler.com

Pair of red women's size 38 Doc Marten boots. Like new. $50 obo. call Beth: 858-8312.

HEY YOU

Hey Leadership Conference Girl who seemed interested in me-where'd you go at the end? I was going to offer you lupper. Call me if you really were interested; niteling@hotmail.com (Felix the Cat). [If I just had something on my face, nevermind.]

Don't ruin a good thing. Too late.

CLASSIFIED RATES

Businesses: $6/line
Non-students: $2/line
Students & clubs: $2/issue
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Alternate Universe Comics by TK Longmire

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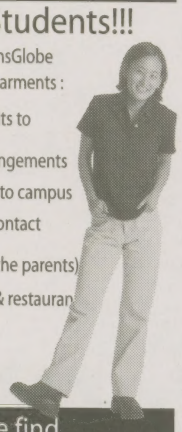

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